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## NOTE.

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THE sketch here given of the Wanton family originally appeared in the *Providence Journal*, in 1871. It is now enlarged by the addition of letters and public documents illustrative of the administration of the four Wantons, who, at different periods, were governors of the Colony of Rhode Island. These papers relate, chiefly, to the wars between Great Britain and France, and Great Britain and Spain, in both of which the Colony took a prominent part. They relate also to the important events that took place in Rhode Island immediately preceding the Declaration of Independence, including the burning of the Gaspee. The genealogical notices of families of Wanton blood have also been considerably enlarged.



## THE WANTON FAMILY.

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AMONG the citizens of Rhode Island who have rendered distinguished service to the State since its foundation, none are more prominent than the Wanton family. For a century their names appear among those who were prominent in social, political and commercial life. For several generations they were the leading merchants in the Colony. They were active in the support of religion; and in all works for the advancement of the interests of the town where they resided, as well as for the Colony at large, they were always found among the leaders. During the war between Great Britain and France, when two of them filled the office of governor, they



rendered distinguished service, which was acknowledged by their sovereign. Four bearing the name were at different times elected governor of the Colony. William Wanton was elected governor in 1732, and served two years. John, elected in 1734, served seven years. Gideon, elected in 1745 and 1747, served two years; and Joseph, elected in 1769, served until November, 1775. Another, Joseph, Jun., held the office of deputy governor. Portraits of William, John and Joseph are preserved in the Redwood Library at Newport, and copies from the same have been placed in the State House in Providence.

EDWARD WANTON is the earliest ancestor of the family in this country of whom we have any knowledge. He was a resident of Boston in 1658, but how much earlier we know not. Tradition says he came from London, accompanied by his mother, but of his father there is no record. He appears to have been a resident of Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1661, where he owned a farm of eighty acres, at the well-known ship-yard, a little below Dwelly's Creek.





He had also extensive lands on Cordwood Hill, and also at the southwest of Hoopole Hill, which latter were sold to Nathaniel Brooks, in 1723. The house of Edward Wanton stood near the bank of the river, on the land now used as a ship-yard, and on the spot occupied by the smaller workhouse. Before he left Boston he became a convert to the faith of the Quakers. Mr. Deane, in his history of Scituate, says: "The severity of the Massachusetts government towards this new sect having been carried to the extent of executing three of them in 1659, 1660 and 1661. Edward Wanton was an officer of the guard on one or more of these occasions. He became deeply sensible of the cruelty, injustice and impolicy of these measures; was greatly moved by the firmness with which they submitted to death, and was won entirely by their addresses before their execution. He returned to his house saying, 'Alas, Mother! we have been murdering the Lord's people,' and taking off his sword, put it by, with a solemn vow never to wear it again. From this time he took every opportunity to converse with the Friends, and soon resolved to become a teacher of



their faith." It is said that he built the first Quaker meeting house in Massachusetts.

Edward Wanton carried on the business of ship-building with great success at Scituate, and held a distinguished place among the enterprising settlers of that town. We learn, too, by its ecclesiastical history, that Mr. Wanton was most successful as a religious teacher in the Society of Friends. His last visit to Newport as a representative from the quarterly to the yearly meeting, was in 1716, when he was eighty-five years old. He died on the 16th of October, of the same year, soon after his return, and "was buried on his own plantation," says Mr. Deane, "a few rods north-east of his house, where several of his family, and the family of Rogers, have since been buried." He died "with faculties unblurred, mind clear, piety fervent, faith unwavering and active as he nearer approached its realization, from which stand-point he could often review his past life and with soul-stirring eloquence and deep sympathy exhort all to stand fast in the faith."

"The farm still bears the name of this venerable man, though it has passed into the possession of



another family more than a century since. His name will go down to posterity so long as a history of the town shall be known. His memory is held in respect, by tradition, from generation to generation." He was probably married before he left England. In Boston two children were born to him—Edward in 1658, and Margaret in 1660; both dying young. His wife died in 1661.

Soon after taking up his residence in Scituate, Mr. Wanton received a visit from a Quaker minister, recently arrived from England, who recommended to him as a second wife, a woman in that country with whom he was acquainted; a correspondence between the parties followed, which soon led to proposals of marriage from Mr. Wanton. The proposals were accepted, the lady at once came to America, and in 1663 the parties were married. The issues of this marriage were Joseph, born 1664; George, 1666; Elizabeth, who married Edward Scott, of Scott Hall, Kent, England, 1668; William, 1670; John, 1672; Sarah and Margaret, twins, 1674; Hannah, who married James Barker,



of Scituate, 1677; Michael, 1679; Stephen, 1682; and Philip, 1686.

JOSEPH WANTON, the eldest son of Edward, removed to Tiverton, in 1688, where he carried on the business of ship-building on an extensive scale, for the time, at the "Narrows." He married Sarah, daughter of Gideon Freeborn, 9th of the eleventh month, 1689. He lived in a large house, and his hospitality is said to have been princely. He and his wife were public speakers of the Society of Friends. His preaching was "truly eloquent and powerful," and tradition speaks of the great benevolence and charities of both. He died March 3, 1754, at the age of ninety. His children were, 1. Elizabeth, born January 5, 1691, married Abraham Borden; 2. Edward, April 20, 1692; 3. Gideon, October 20, 1693; 4. Sarah, April 27, 1696, who married, first, Thomas Spencer, second, Benjamin Howland; 5. Joseph, June 9, 1698; and 6. Mary, June 10, 1700. Mary married Thomas Richardson, of Newport, a gentleman of wealth and refinement, who held the office of general treasurer





of the Colony for many years. He, too, was an active and influential member of the Society of Friends. His daughter Sarah married Thomas Robinson, also a Friend. They are said to have been wealthy, hospitable and benevolent, and lived in great state.

The genealogy of the descendants of Thomas and Sarah Robinson which has appeared in the newspapers has exhibited such variances that we addressed a note to William Hunter, Esq., Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, who is doubly possessed of Wanton blood, for information regarding this branch of the Wanton family. Through his father Mr. Hunter is a descendant of Elizabeth, daughter of the first Edward Wanton; and through his mother, a descendant of Joseph, son of Edward Wanton. Mr. Hunter's reply presents such full and accurate details that we give his letter at length:—

WASHINGTON, 22nd March, 1878.

TO JOHN R. BARTLETT, ESQ., PROVIDENCE, R. I.

DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter of the 14th, asking for information as to my relationship



to the Wanton family of Rhode Island. Unfortunately I have little or none, and that which I have, has been derived from rather vague traditions. I can, however, at least correct some of the information of which you speak, as already in your possession. William, son of Thomas and Sarah Robinson, married Sarah, daughter of Abraham Franklin, of New York, whose daughter Mary married my father, William Hunter. Godfrey Malbone, my great-grandfather, married Elizabeth (Wanton) Scott, granddaughter of Edward Wanton. My grandfather, Dr. William Hunter, married Malbone's daughter. Thomas R. married Jemima Fish. William and Sarah Robinson had many children, perhaps thirteen, whose respective histories it is not in my power to state. I am under the impression that their eldest child was Esther, married to Jonas Minturn, of New York. Their next child may have been Sarah, who married Joseph Coates, of Philadelphia. Perhaps my mother was the third. The sons of William and Sarah were Thomas and Samuel, who died unmarried; Franklin, who lived and married in Alabama and died leaving children.



Rowland, who lived and died in Indiana, leaving many children, as I have understood ; William, who also lived in that State and died a bachelor, and Joseph. There were also other daughters. Eliza, who died unmarried. Abigail, married to Joseph H. Pierce of Boston. Amy, who married Walter Bowne of New York. Nancy, married to John Toulmin of Mobile. They died without children. Emma, married to John Grimshaw of New York, by whom she had two children, both of whom survive. Mr. and Mrs. Coates had two children. Their eldest, a son, is still living, and is a member of the firm of Miller & Coates of New York. Several of the daughters of Thomas and Sarah Robinson were remarkable for their personal charms and intellectual and literary attainments. One of them, Mary, married John Morton of Philadelphia. She was an uncommonly charming person, whom I well knew in my boyhood and early youth. She was a Quaker preacher, not only the best of that sect I ever heard, but I think surpassed both in strength and richness of matter and manner any man preacher I ever listened to. Her utterances were the more agreeable,



as they were not in the whining tone common to preachers of that denomination. Her letters to my mother, prior to the marriage of the latter, trying to dissuade her from marrying my father, partly because he was not of their persuasion, are the most eloquent and beautifully expressed of any I ever read.

John and Mary Morton had two children, Robert, a physician in Philadelphia, who died young, and Esther, married to Daniel Smith of Haverford, near that city. She is dead, leaving several children. The eldest, Benjamin, owns and in the summer lives in the very house in Washington street, Newport, the "Point," where Thomas and Sarah Robinson and their children lived. After the death of her parents, she lived in their house until she died, when she bequeathed it to her neice, Mrs. Daniel Smith of Haverford, Pennsylvania. The daughters of Thomas and Sarah Robinson, among their other attainments had a knowledge of the French language, for which they deserve special credit, as the facilities for education in their time must have been much less than they now are. That knowledge, I have under-





stood, was an agreeable surprise to the officers of the French army stationed at Newport during the Revolution, and led to their cultivating the acquaintance of the Robinson girls. My grandfather, Dr. William Hunter, was, as I have understood, a graduate of Edinburgh University and Medical School, and was a surgeon in the Pretender's army at the battle of Culloden. Soon afterwards he came to this country and settling at Newport, he there practiced his profession, and married the daughter of Godfrey Malbone, who was the great-granddaughter of first Edward Wanton. He had four children, of whom my father was the only son. I have understood that early in the Revolutionary war he contracted a fever at a military hospital at Newport, from which he died. His daughters were remarkably well educated, especially for that time. They also were familiar with the French language. In this connection it may not be impertinent to refer to the way in which the Duke de Lauzun speaks of them in his memoirs. As you are aware, he held a high rank in the army of his country which aided us in the Revolutionary war. I annex a translated



extract from the Memoirs of the Duke of Lauzun.\* Miss Elizabeth Hunter, the eldest daughter, was such a devotee to her literary and musical pursuits that her eyesight became seriously affected, so that her mother took her to England in 1785, in the hope of having a cure there effected. The other daughters also went, but my father was left behind to attend school and, afterwards, Brown University.

"I did not leave Newport without regret; I had made very agreeable acquaintances there. Mrs. Hunter, a widow, thirty-six years of age, had two charming daughters whom she had perfectly well educated. Being in mourning for Doctor Hunter, they lived very retired, and scarcely ever saw any one. I chanced to become acquainted with Mrs. Hunter, on my arrival in Rhode Island. She became friendly towards me, and I was soon regarded as one of the family. I passed all my time with them, and, having been taken ill, Mrs. Hunter had me removed to her house, where I received the kindest care. I was never in love with the Misses Hunter, but if they had been my sisters, I could not have liked them better, especially the oldest, who is one of the most charming persons I ever met."

\* \* \* \* \*

"The tumult of Philadelphia, having become unbearable to me, I wished to get rid of it. A journey to Rhode Island combined the advantages of being near letters which would probably arrive at the north, and of again seeing that charming family by whom I am so tenderly loved. I set out, then, despite the rigor of the season. People at Newport were inexpressibly glad to see me."

*Memoirs of Duke of Lauzun, pp. 280 and 314.*



Soon after he graduated he joined his mother in London, and first took up the study of medicine with the famous John Hunter, who was a first cousin of his father, but afterwards became a law student in the Temple. During the French Revolution my aunt Ann married, in London, Falconnet, an opulent Swiss banker, who transacted business in Naples. They had many children. One of their daughters married Count Pourtalès of Paris, famous for having perhaps the most valuable collection of art treasures belonging to any private person in Europe. Another of the Falconnet girls married John Izard Middleton of South Carolina, and died childless. Another of my father's sisters, Catherine, married a Count de Cardignan, who, I have understood was guillotined during the Revolution in France. He left one child, a son, who, when I last heard of him, was a colonel in the French army. My aunt Eliza, the eldest of the three, never recovered her sight, yet her faculty for music was such that, like blind Tom, it was necessary for a complicated piece to be played once only within her hearing, and she would repeat it note for note. My three aunts are all dead.



My father, after completing his law studies in London, returned to Newport and was admitted to the bar. He also engaged in politics on the federal side, and was a member of the General Assembly. He was elected to the Senate of the United States in 1811, and served until 1821. In 1834 he was appointed *Chargé d' Affaires* to Brazil, and was afterwards made minister to the same country. He returned home in 1848, and died in Newport, December 3, 1849. He had eight children, two of whom died in their nonage. I am the eldest. My sister Eliza was the second. She was married at Rio de Janeiro to James Birkhead, formerly of Baltimore. She now lives in Newport. The third child was Thomas R. He lives in Middletown, near the Newport line. The fourth was Mary R. She married Edward Pierse, a captain in the British navy, and died near London a few years since. The fifth child was Charles, a captain in the United States navy, who, with his wife and daughter, was lost on his way to Havre in 1873. The sixth child was Catherine. She married at Rio, John Greenway, an English merchant, then transacting business at Monte Video.





She died there in giving birth to her first child, who survived her.

I will not prolong this letter, which I fear must already have become more tedious than interesting to you. If, however, I should have omitted any facts within my knowledge of which you might like to be informed, upon specifying you shall be apprized of them.

I am, dear Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

W. HUNTER.

Further notices of the Robinson family will be found in the appendix.

GEORGE WANTON, the second son of Edward, died in January, 1684, aged eighteen years, and was buried in the family burial ground in Scituate, Massachusetts, near where lay the remains of his parents.

ELIZABETH WANTON, daughter of Edward, married Edward Scott, of Scott Hall, Kent, England, whose descendants are now living in Newport. Her daughter married Godfrey Malbone, whose daugh-



ter married Dr. William Hunter,\* father of the late Hon. William Hunter of Newport. See appendix for genealogy.

Several of the other sons of the first Edward also removed to Newport, whose names occasionally appear in the Colonial Records, but none of them except William and John seem to have risen to distinction. George was admitted a freeman in 1718. We again find him mentioned as one of the committee appointed by the General Assembly in 1739, "to erect a new Colony house, built of brick, in Newport, where the old one now stands, consisting of eighty feet in length and forty in breadth and thirty feet stud, the length whereof to stand near or quite north and south." †

\* Dr. William Hunter, of Scottish birth, was an eminent surgeon. About the year 1756 he gave, at Newport, the first anatomical and surgical lectures ever delivered in the twelve colonies. They were delivered in the Court House, in two seasons in succession, by cards of invitation, and gave great satisfaction. Dr. Hunter was educated at Edinburgh, and is stated by Dr. Waterhouse to have been a surgeon of remarkable skill.

† Colonial Records, volume iv., page 551.



. Governor WILLIAM WANTON, third son of Edward Wanton, was born in 1670. He married Ruth, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Deacon John Bryant, of Scituate, Massachusetts, June 1, 1691. It appears that there was serious opposition to this match on the part of Deacon Bryant, who was a rigid Presbyterian, and of that uncharitable class which detested the Quakers. After much delay, William paid Miss Bryant a visit, and, in presence of her family, thus addressed her: "Ruth, I am sure we were made for each other, and neither of us can live without the other. Now let us cut the knot of difficulty. I will leave the Quakers, and thou shalt leave the Presbyterians. We will both go to the Church of England and to the devil together." Ruth agreed to the proposal, and the marriage took place. The following children were born to them: 1. Margaret, born 24th October, 1692, who died young; 2. George, born 24th August, 1694; 3. William, born 26th October, 1696; 4. Peter, born 22nd March, 1698, died young; 5. Ruth, born 12th July, 1701, died young; 6. Edward, born 11th April, 1702; 7. JOSEPH, born 15th August, 1705,



became governor of the Colony in 1769; 8. Benjamin, 9th June, 1707; and 9. Eliza, 4th October, 1709, who died young.

George Wanton married Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Ellery, of Newport, February 24, 1698. Joseph married Mary, daughter of John Still Winthrop of New London. For descendants of these two families, see appendix.

In consequence of religious differences in the family, some of the members being connected with the Episcopal Church, others with the Quakers, William, with his brother John, removed to Newport, where they established themselves as shipbuilders. The former was soon found to be a man of more than ordinary capacity. He rose in public esteem and became very efficient in the Colonial government. The two brothers were the leaders in a successful attack on a piratical vessel which infested the coast, and which won for them a fame, not only through the British colonies, but in England. The narrative of this exploit is thus related:

“A piratical ship of three hundred tons, mounting twenty cannon, appeared off the harbor of Newport,





cruising between Block Island and Point Judith, interrupting every vessel that attempted to pass, capturing property and treating the officers and crews with great severity. To remove an annoyance so injurious to the comfort and prosperity of the inhabitants of Newport, two young men, William and John Wanton, sons of the first Edward, determined to attempt her capture, and the means they resorted to were as novel as the success was glorious. No sooner had they made known their intention than they were joined by about thirty young men of their acquaintance, and a sloop of thirty tons was engaged for the enterprise. The brave fellows went on board with only their small arms to defend themselves, and sailed out of the harbor, apparently on a little coasting excursion, every person being concealed below except the few required to navigate the vessel. After cruising a few days, they espied the object of their search. As they drew near the piratical vessel, with the intention, apparently, to pass, the pirate fired a shot at them. This was what they desired, in order to give them an opportunity to approach the pirate. The sloop immediately low-



ered the peak of her mainsail and luffed up for the pirate, but instead of going alongside, they came directly under her stern. Her men at once sprang upon deck, and with irons prepared for the purpose, grappled their sloop to the ship, and wedged her rudder to the stern-post so as to render it unmanageable. Having so far succeeded in their purpose without alarming the piratical crew or leading them to suppose they were approached by anything but a little coaster, each man seized his musket, and taking deliberate aim, shot every pirate as he appeared on deck. After making great efforts to disengage themselves, and finding it impossible so to do, the rest surrendered and were taken into the harbor of Newport by their brave and gallant captors, and turned over to the authorities, when, after a trial, they suffered the penalty of their crimes by being hanged. When this affair took place William Wanton was but twenty-four and John twenty-two years of age.

"Again, in 1697, just before the peace of Ryswick, during the troubles with Count Frontenac, Governor of Canada, a French armed ship had taken several



prizes in the bay, and their depredations were so numerous and so disastrous to the inhabitants of the town that they could no longer be endured without the interruption of the commerce of the town. William and John Wanton, fired with the same zeal which prompted them in their former exploit, determined to make an effort to rid our waters of the offensive vessel. They therefore repaired to Boston, where each fitted out a vessel well manned with spirited volunteers, put to sea, and in a few days fell in with the French ship and captured her."

The *Newport Mercury* gave the following details of this exploit :

"While cruising off Holmes's Hole, finding themselves short of fresh provisions, one of the lieutenants was sent on shore in a boat to purchase such as they were in want of, with strict orders to pay for everything they brought off. But disregarding his positive orders, brought off several sheep without paying for them. The owners of the sheep soon came off to seek redress, and were answered by the Wantons that they had given strict orders that nothing should be taken without full remuneration for it,



but they insisted that they had been robbed, and after a time search was instituted and persisted in until the carcasses were found in the lieutenant's quarters, whereupon they compelled him to refund double the value of the sheep, and otherwise punished him for his disobedience. This little circumstance greatly influenced the politicians in Rhode Island, and was the foundation of party feuds which lasted in the colonies more than fifty years. Soon after this they got under weigh, and a French ship was seen in the distance. The Frenchmen discovered them at the same moment and bore down upon them, when a sharp action took place. William ran under the stern of the French ship and wedged her rudder, while John boarded and swept the enemy from her decks. This prize was very valuable, as she had the choicest spoils from the prizes she had taken, and the Wantons were greatly enriched, besides rendering a valuable service to the Colony."

It is said that the venerable Edward endeavored to dissuade his sons from this enterprise, as being unlawful and contrary to the rules of their church, but on finding them determined, he thus addressed them: "It would be a grief to my spirit to hear ye





had fallen in a military enterprise, but if ye will go, remember it would be a greater grief to hear that ye were cowards." Whether the brothers Wanton were summoned to England by the government to aid by their experience and advice in naval matters, or whether they went on their own business is not known. It is certain, however, that in 1702 they went to London, and were received at court among the naval heroes who had added lustre to the British flag. Their portraits were painted by the court artist. Queen Anne granted them an addition to their family coat of arms, which was considered a great honor, and, with her own royal hands, presented each with two pieces of plate, a silver punch-bowl and salver, with these words in Latin engraved upon them : \*

Omnipotente numine magestro  
Volat hic Hercules ocyeus vento  
Multo cum sanguine capuintur  
Viucenti poculum dabitur Wantoni.

\*The marble-topped punch table of Governor Joseph Wanton descended to his daughter Elizabeth Wickham, and from her to her daughter, who took it to Hudson, New York, where it was used in the Episcopal church as a communion table. When the society erected their new church, it was taken to the church at Claverack, where it is still in use for the same purpose.



Which may be freely translated thus :

Swift as the wind the intrepid warrior flies,  
Under the smiles of all-approving Heaven;  
The trembling captive feels his power and dies,—  
To conquering Wanton let the bowl be given.

The honors received by the Messrs. Wanton in England and the fame of their naval exploits, which had been spread throughout the northern colonies, brought them into further notice. They had ever been amongst the most active and enterprising men in the Colony. They now entered the arena of politics, and William, who is styled Major, was, in 1705, elected a "deputy" to the General Assembly, and chosen speaker. The following year he was chosen an assistant. For several years he also held the office of "Major for the Islands."\* In 1709 William and his brother, Colonel John Wanton, took an

\* The General Assembly, at its October session, 1682, passed the following law: "That there be two majors chosen in this Colony annually, one major for the Islands, and one major for the maine land. The major for the Islands to be chosen by the Freeman and Train Bands of the Islands, and the major for the maine to be chosen by the Freeman and Train Bands on the maine; and their voates to be sent in at the generall election of officers in May annually, by the clerke of the respective Bands."—*R. I. Col. Rec.*, vol. iii., page 118.



active part in the expedition then fitting out against the French in Canada. They were both on the governor's special council "to assist him in managing the affairs of the great expedition against Canada." Two of William's vessels were taken for the expedition, for which a price is stipulated. He was also one of the committee with power to select officers for the ships. In the boundary dispute with Connecticut, we find Colonel William Wanton, as he is now styled, one of the commissioners sent to that Colony, and a resolution voting him £79 15s 6d for his "time, trouble, charges and damages to his horses in said journey." \*

In the year 1708, during the war between Great Britain and France, when our coasts were infested with French privateers, which did great mischief to our commerce, we again find, in the Colonial Records, favorable mention of Mr. Wanton. In a letter from Governor Cranston to the Board of Trade, London, dated Dec. 5, 1708, speaking of depredations of these vessels, he says: "We had nothing material that happened the last summer, save one expedition

\* Rhode Island Colonial Records, volume 4.



on the 8th September, upon intelligence given me by an express from Martha's Vineyard, of a privateer that had taken a sloop, and chased a brigantine on shore, upon said island; upon which intelligence I dispatched (within three hours after the receipt thereof) two sloops under the command of Major William Wanton and Captain John Cranston. The enemy fearing our sudden expedition (they being acquainted of our dispatch upon such occasions) burnt his prize and made the best of his way to sea, so that our people could not get sight of him, though they pursued him for twenty-four hours."

In the expedition against Canada, in which the New England colonies were so prominent, Rhode Island took an active part, both by sea and land. The land forces were under command of Colonel Francis Nicholson. In a letter from Governor Cranston to that officer, dated June 27, 1709, he says: "Colonel William Wanton, with the forces of this Colony, sailed from hence for Nantasket, the 19th instant, and arrived there on the 22nd."

From 1705, when he first entered public life as a deputy to the General Assembly, William Wanton





continued to serve the Colony as a deputy or as an assistant, until 1732, when he was elected Governor. He was reelected the following year and died in December of that year.

All accounts state that William Wanton was not only an enterprising merchant but a most "polished gentleman, of easy, polite and engaging manners, very hospitable and fond of entertaining his friends." He is also spoken of as a man of great benevolence. His death caused great sorrow in the Colony, for "he had shown such energy and aptness in the performance of his official duties, that all considered him the right man in the right place, and great sympathy was expressed by the public with the family in their great affliction. His funeral was attended by the inhabitants almost *en masse*, and his remains were deposited in the family vault adjoining the Clifton burial ground." A short time before his death he remarked to gathered friends and his family, who stood near his bed: "My father's God is my God, and I die in the faith of the Quakers."

It was during the period when he held the office of governor that Bishop Berkeley visited Newport;



and it is said that as long as this distinguished man resided in that town or on the island, he dined every Sunday with Governor Wanton. When he took his departure he presented Mrs. Wanton with an elegant diamond ring, which until recently remained in the family.

William lived in a fine three story house in Thames street, Newport, which he owned, now the property of Colonel R. B. Lawton and sister. His brother John occupied the estate opposite.

Governor JOHN WANTON, fifth son of Edward, who accompanied his brother William to Newport, was born in 1672. He was a merchant, and associated with his brother in business. He married, 1. Ann, daughter of Gideon Freeborn, of Portsmouth; 2. Mary Stafford of Tiverton. He resided in a house opposite that of his brother William, in Newport, now owned and occupied by James Horswell and William H. Bailey.

His children, as appears by his family Bible, in the possession of Dr. William Bullock of Providence, were, 1. John, born 22nd tenth month (Oc-



tober or December), 1697, who married Ann, daughter of Abraham Redwood, (probably in 1718); 2. Elizabeth, born 9th fourth month (April or June), 1700, who married John Cupitt; 3. Susanna, born 21st eighth month (August or October), 1704, died 1789; 4. Mary, born 16th fourth month (April or June), 1707, married Latham Thurston January 1, 1730, and died 30th seventh month, 1737; and 5. James, born 16th seventh month (July or September), 1717, married Patience —— 6th August, 1741.

John Wanton "was a liberal patron of the arts, collected a fine library and some rare philosophical apparatus. His house was the intellectual centre of the Colony, and the fame of his library and apparatus extended throughout the neighboring colonies, so that when strangers visited the town his house was one of the desirable places to visit, as he was, like his brothers, very hospitable, refined and instructive in conversation, possessing those elegancies of manner which distinguished the gentleman of his day."

He first appears in public life as a deputy to the General Assembly from Newport, in 1706, when he is styled "captain." Two years later he is styled



"colonel," at which time he was commander of a regiment of militia, and was appointed on the special council in connection with the famous expedition against Canada.

In our notice of his brother William, mention is made of the daring naval exploits in which he took a prominent part. During the war with France news was brought to Newport that a sloop laden with provisions had been captured by a French privateer, off Block Island. A proclamation calling upon the inhabitants for volunteers was at once made by Governor Cranston. Within two hours time two sloops were armed, equipped and manned with one hundred and twenty men, and placed under the command of John Wanton, who immediately put to sea. They soon fell in with the Frenchman, whom they captured, and within twelve hours from their departure they reëntered the harbor with the privateer and the sloop she had previously taken. That there could have been such dispatch in the Colony more than a hundred and fifty years ago, seems hardly credible; but it should be remembered that Newport was then largely engaged in commerce, and not





second to New York in the extent of her business. Numbers of seamen congregated there, and having had so many contests with pirates and privateers, her people seem to have been ready at a moment's notice to embark in any enterprise on the high seas, whether for commercial purposes or as belligerents in war.

After many years of active life connected with military and naval enterprises, John Wanton, about the year 1712, laid aside all warlike aspirations and embraced the faith of the Quakers, after which he travelled much as a religious teacher. He had been most successful as a merchant, and was considered the wealthiest man in the Colony. The good use he made of his riches in acts of benevolence, and his devotion to his country, obtained for him a popularity such as no citizen of the Colony had ever before acquired.

Previous to the year 1719 the Colony had passed certain acts for the regulation of trade, which, as was customary, were sent to England for approval. Nathaniel Kay, having been appointed collector for the port of Newport, by the commissioners of the



King's customs in England, called upon the commissioners before leaving for Rhode Island to learn whether a certain order "had been sent to the charter governments, that restrained them from putting laws relating to trade in execution, before they were approved of, or confirmed, in England," and was informed that they were.

It appears, however, that on Mr. Kay's arrival at Newport he learned that no such order as that referred to had been received there. Mr. Kay, in writing to the authorities says that similar laws repugnant to the laws of trade made in England, had also been passed in Connecticut, "such as the laying on of duties and obliging the King's subjects of other governments to pay them."

During this year, 1719, this conflict of authority culminated in the seizure of several casks of wine by the new collector. The people of Newport, deeming the seizure an illegal one, took possession of the wine, stove in the heads of the casks, and with pails carried off most of the liquor, throwing what remained into the street.

Caleb Heathcote, one of the council, who came



here from New York to investigate this matter, wrote at length to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, dated Newport, September 7, 1719, giving the result of his inquiries. He begins as follows :

"MY LORDS: It being incumbent on me to lay before your Lordships some laws and proceedings of the charter governments, which are of extraordinary nature, and in many respects hurtful to the prerogative of the crown, and contrary of the laws of trade made for the plantations; in which, if they are not kept to a strict observance of, and made sensible of their dependence on Great Britain, as they are daily growing very numerous and powerful, so a neglect therein, may with time, be attended with very ill consequences."

After speaking of the various acts of the Colony which conflict with the operation of the laws of the home government, Mr. Heathcote adds: "For, while the colonists have the power (as they imagine), of making laws separate from their own, they'll never be wanting to lessen the authority of the king's officers, who, by hindering them from a full



freedom of illegal trade, are accounted enemies to the growth and prosperity of their little commonwealths." He then proceeds to give an account of the destruction of the wine before mentioned:—

"And 'tis very wonderful to me, who am thoroughly acquainted with the temper of the people, that none of his majesty's officers of the customs have been mobbed and torn to pieces by the rabble, and of which some of them have very narrowly escaped; an instance whereof happened to the present collector, who, having made seizure of several hogsheads of claret illegally imported, and notwithstanding he had the governor's warrant, and the high sheriff besides his own officers to assist, and took the claret in the day-time, yet the town's people had the insolence to rise upon them, and insult both them and the civil officers; and having, by violence, after a riotous and tumultuous manner, rescued and possessed themselves of the seizures, set the hogsheads ahead and stove them open, and with pails drank out and carried away most of the wine, and then threw the remainder into the streets.

"This tumult was no sooner over, but one Mr.





John Wanton, who uses the sea and is master of a sloop, a magistrate of the people's choice (as may be reasonably supposed), for keeping up the rage and humor of the mob, did immediately issue out his warrant for apprehending of Mr. Kay, the collector, under pretence of his taking other and greater fees for clearing vessels than the laws of this Colony allowed of, which was two shillings sterling; but the matter being fully examined before the governor (Cranston), and it appearing that he had taken no greater fees than above mentioned, and which had always been customary; and that the prosecution was maliciously intended to expose the collector, he was dismissed. But Mr. Wanton, not satisfied with what the governor had done, and being willing to ingratiate himself amongst his neighbors, who had so lately advanced him, issued out a second warrant for the very same act, and to magnify his zeal on that occasion, had him arrested and taken into custody in the custom house, and thence hurried him away, amidst a crowd of spectators, refusing to admit him to bail."

"These are such unheard of proceedings as will,



I humbly suppose, induce your lordships to believe that such a person as Mr. Wanton is unworthy of authority, under color whereof he so highly abuses and discourages the officers of his majesty's customs in the discharge of their duty."

This "contempt and ill-usage of his majesty's officers," the writer thinks, "is owing to that unlimited power the charter governments lay claim to, of making laws, and requiring an obedience to be paid to them, before their first passing your lordships' approbation and had the royal assent." \*

It is unnecessary to go into the question whether Mr. Wanton was right or wrong in this affair, as the colonial government and the people appear to have sustained him.

From 1712 we find John Wanton's name among the deputies or assistants to the General Assembly from Newport, until the year 1721, when he was elected deputy governor. In 1729 he was again elected deputy governor, and annually re-elected to the same office until the year 1734, in which year his brother William died.

\* J. Carter Brown Manuscripts, volume viii., number 538.



At this time, indeed for several years previous, the Colony has been agitated by party strife, chiefly on account of the excessive issue of paper money. It appears from a letter written September 2, 1731, by Mr. Kay, the collector of customs in Newport, to the Board of Trade in London, that the amount of these bills then outstanding exceeded £120,000; and, although the king had commanded the governments of the American colonies not to issue any more of this paper money, the Assembly of Rhode Island, at its June session of that year, passed an act for emitting £60,000 more, upon land security, to which Governor Jenekes would not give his sanction.

A number of the leading men in the Colony opposed this great issue of paper money, and wrote a letter to the board of trade, complaining of the issue of this last £60,000, when the act had not received the governor's approval. Accompanying this letter was a copy of the governor's dissent, with proper attestation. In this letter the writers say that "the deputy governor, John Wanton, Esq., hearing of these proceedings, immediately sum-



moned the General Assembly, which the governor would not do ; and the said Assembly took away all our attested copies before-mentioned, made an addition to their act, and ordered our memorial to be dismissed in this torn and tattered manner, which we humbly conceive to be exceedingly injurious to his majesty's faithful subjects."

Governor Jenckes, at the same time, wrote a letter to the king (George the Second), wherein he complained that the General Assembly had emitted a large amount of "paper bills of credit, notwithstanding this great endeavors to prevent it, both of himself and many of the people of the Colony." He also related the particulars of the transaction before given in the letter from the merchants and others of Newport, which had caused him great trouble. He then asks the king "to give his royal determination upon the three following particulars :

"1st. Whether any act passed by the General Assembly of this Colony may be judged valid, the governor having entered his dissent from it at the time it was voted.

"2nd. Whether or no the Governor of this Colony





may with safety allow or refuse setting the Colony seal to copies taken out of the secretary's office, and attested by him, in order to be sent to your majesty.

"3rd. Whether it be the governor's duty to examine all such copies before he orders the Colony's seal set thereto ; the secretary who attests them being an officer under oath."

Under the same date of August 30, 1731, an address and petition from a large number of the inhabitants of Rhode Island was sent to the king. In this address was reiterated what has before been stated. In it the petitioners complain of the "great wrongs and grievances they have lain under, and the damages they have sustained within these twenty years back, by the excessive emitting of bills of credit on this Colony, and enforcing the same by several acts of the General Assembly, to pass in payments in equal value with gold and silver money, since the beginning of 1710, to May, 1731."

After presenting full particulars regarding the last issue of £60,000, and of their intentions to petition the king for relief, and having taken copies of their memorial of the objectionable act, and of other



papers laid before the General Assembly, they say : "John Wanton, Esq., our deputy governor, on our honorable governor's refusal summoned a General Assembly, which met the 3rd day of this present August, at Newport, and took away all our said attested copies, forbidding the seal of this Colony to be affixed to them, which used to be affixed to all papers and records of any courts in the Colony, when sent to England, and then rejected our said memorial, ordering the clerk of their Assembly to re-deliver it to us, taking a receipt for the same. All which proceedings we consider derogatory to your majesty's royal prerogative, the laws of Great Britain, and the rights of your majesty's subjects."

Upon the receipt in England of this memorial, with the letter of Governor Jenckes, and a copy of the Colony's charter, they were referred to the Attorney and the Solicitor General, with directions to consider and report on the same. On the question, "Whether any act passed by the General Assembly of the Colony may be considered valid, the governor having ~~entered~~ his dissent from it at the time it was voted," the crown officers, in giving their opinion,



say: "In this charter no negative voice is given to the governor, nor any power reserved to the crown of approving or disapproving the laws to be made in this Colony. We are, therefore, of opinion that, though by the charter the presence of the governor, or, in his absence, the deputy governor, is necessary to the legal holding of a General Assembly: yet, when he is there, he is a part of the Assembly, and included in the majority; and, consequently, that acts passed by a majority of such Assembly are valid in law, notwithstanding the governor's entering his dissent at the time of the passing thereof."

As to the question stated, "Whether his majesty hath any power to repeal or make void the above-mentioned act of the Assembly, we humbly conceive that, no provision being made for that purpose, the crown hath no discretionary power of repealing laws made in this province; but the validity thereof depends upon their not being contrary, but, as near as may be, agreeable to the laws of England, regard being had to the nature and constitution of the place and people. Where this condition is observed, the law is binding; and where it is not, the law is void as not warranted by the charter."



On the question of the necessity of the governor's setting or refusing the Colony's seal to all public acts, or of examining these acts himself, before he orders the seal set thereto, the opinion of these officers was, that it was "the duty of the governor to set the Colony's seal to such copies of acts as were attested by the secretary, in order to be sent to his majesty; and that the examination and attestation of the secretary are sufficient, without the personal examination of the governor."

This decision of the highest legal authorities in England, notwithstanding Governor Jenckes' appeal and the memorial of the inhabitants of Newport, sustained the act of the General Assembly as well as the proceedings, remarkable as they were, of Deputy Governor John Wanton.\*

But it appears that the objections to the issue of the £60,000 did not put an end to the "inflationists," as we find that nine years later, under the administration of Governor Richard Ward, the General Assembly passed an act emitting £20,000 in the new

\*J. Carter Brown Manuscripts, volume viii., numbers 562, 566 and 567. Rhode Island Colonial Records, volume iv., page 461.





tenor, "to be let upon loan," and £10,000 of old tenor for the supply of the treasury. Protests followed the passing of this act with as little success as attended the passing of the similar act of 1731.

In the hope that his great influence, and a policy of adopting a moderate course would reconcile conflicting interests, John Wanton was induced to stand as a candidate for governor, to which office he was elected. His personal qualifications, his excellent character, his distinguished bravery, his great wealth, his exemplary habits and extensive benevolence, rendered him the most suitable person to heal the political discord of the Colony, in which, it appears, he in a measure succeeded.

John Wanton was a member of the Society of Friends, and under the influence of feelings which had been fostered by the counsels of his older brother Joseph, he had been a preacher several years before his election as governor, and had now developed into a powerful and eloquent speaker. No eloquence like his, it is said, had been heard in New England. Multitudes flocked to his preaching wherever it was known he was to be present. He trav-



elled extensively in New England, and southerly as far as Pennsylvania, in which missionary tours he gathered multitudes to the Society of Friends. On one occasion there was to be a marriage at the Friends' meeting house in Newport, on a Friday morning. The General Assembly was in session, and adjourned that they might attend it in a body, as they always did to attend the mid-week meeting of Friends. An immense throng crowded the two tiers of gallery and the aisles, and every available spot where there was standing room. The members of the General Assembly came in preceded by their sergeant-at-arms, and took the seats reserved for them, while Governor Wanton, dressed in a bright scarlet cloak, lined with blue,\* walked up with great dignity into the minister's gallery, where he took the post of honor.

After a period of silence, customary in gatherings of Friends, the governor arose and quietly stood a few moments with his eyes turned towards heaven; then slowly rolling them downwards towards the

\* A piece of this ancient garment is preserved by one of the Wanton family living in Newport.



expectant congregation, he announced for his text, "There was a marriage in Cana of Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there." He spoke of the dignity which was conferred upon the institution of marriage by the presence of the world's Redeemer on that occasion, and then showed the importance of it. First, as a safeguard of morality. Second, as a school for the culture and development of the best feelings of our nature. Third, as admirably calculated for the protection of our race during the helpless period of infancy; and fourth, as a symbol of the mysterious union which exists between Christ and his church. On this latter point he was exceedingly eloquent, and for three-quarters of an hour he fairly entranced his hearers. Pausing for a moment, and lowering his voice, he spoke of the superior adaptation of the ceremony of the Society of Friends to the fulfillment of these conditions, and contrasted it with the ceremony which the British Parliament had ordained for the church of England, quoting the words of the Book of Common Prayer, "With this ring I thee wed; with all my worldly goods I thee endow, and with my body I thee worship." The



governor seized on the latter phrase and played with it as a cat would with a mouse before devouring it. He showed its folly, its absurdity and its wickedness, and wound up with these words: "What! a mortal body worship a mortal body! My friends, it is preposterous!" He uttered these closing words at the very top of his voice, which, ringing through the house, startled the whole congregation, and then quietly took his seat.

During his administration there were certain conflicting Indian claims to be settled within the Colony of Connecticut, and the cause was referred to the governors of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. At this trial the question was agitated whether the sachems should be permitted to speak in their own cause; counsel contended that they should not, and two of the board inclining to that opinion, Governor Wanton remarked, that as they had already agreed to admit the testimony of some of the natives, it would be proper that their chiefs should be allowed to speak. "I have," said he, "been accounted a man of courage in my day, but I think I shall turn coward and flee, if you bring in a





body without a head." This sally carried the point, the sachems were allowed to speak, and the governor was often heard to express his admiration of the powers of oratory in those children of the forest.

The public event of greatest importance that occurred during the administration of Governor John Wanton was the declaration of war by Great Britain against Spain, which took place in the spring of 1740, when a special session of the General Assembly was called. An act was then passed for raising and enlisting soldiers to be transported to the West Indies for his majesty's service. An officer was accordingly appointed in each militia regiment, who was authorized to enlist as many men as could be found willing to serve the king in an intended expedition against the Spaniards. Every man was to have a bounty of £3 on enlisting, and to be exempt from all military service for the space of three years after his return, except in cases of great extremity. At the same time the Colony was put in a state of defence against an enemy. A garrison under command of Colonel John Cranston was placed in Fort George, and the works put in fight-



ing order. Military stores were provided. Troops were sent to Block Island, together with a battery of six heavy guns for its defence. Seven watch-towers were erected along the coast and on the shores of the bay, in which the towns where they were located were to keep a constant guard under the direction of the council of war. Beacons were also erected upon commanding heights, including one at Block Island, to give the earliest notice of any hostile demonstration. Furthermore, the Colony ordered the sloop *Tartar*, of one hundred and fifteen tons, to be built for war purposes, and during the coming year five privateers, manned by four hundred men, were fitted out by the merchants of Newport, to cruise against the Spaniards.

The part that Governor Wanton was obliged to take, by virtue of his office, in the issuing of military commissions and other services connected with the war, was a grief to some of the ultra Friends, who considered it a breach of Quaker discipline. Indeed, it caused such a commotion that a large and influential committee visited him upon the subject. He acknowledged his acts, explaining them—



"First: As one of the duties the unfortunate state of the Colony demanded of him in fulfillment of his obligation as the executive of the Colony.

"Second: The duty of the executive to so protect the inhabitants in their rights that they should not be impeded in the exercise of their civil or religious concerns,—the glorious platform of the Colony.

"Third: That he had endeavored, on all previous occasions, as on this, to do his whole duty to God and his fellow-men, without doing violence to the law of conscience, but in all concerns listening to the still small voice of divine emanation, and being obedient thereto."

Before closing this brief sketch of Governors William and John Wanton, it does not seem out of place to mention an amusing incident connected with the first coming of the brothers to Rhode Island, which we have been permitted to take from the unpublished annals of the ancient town of Scituate. Like their father, Edward Wanton, they were both members of the Society of Friends, although they did not inherit his peaceful spirit.



They had long known of the persecutions and exactions of the Presbyterian minister of Seituate, and of the constant annoyances which their father had experienced from this malignant and vindictive man. Often when he sent his colored man to catch a mess of fish, the parson would waylay him and take them from him: Caesar having been strictly charged never to resist violence. He was constantly circulating the most vile slanders respecting him; he made insulting remarks in his presence, and finally named his dog Wanton. John and William, in obedience to their father's command, had borne all that went before in silence, were now stirred up to ungovernable rage by this last insult. Carefully concealing their project from their father, they had two of his best horses well fed and groomed, and then cut a number of tough willow switches. Thus prepared they waited until ten o'clock in the evening when all the good people were soundly asleep; they then went to the minister's house, and, knocking at the door, the minister came to the window, and asking who was there, was answered, *Friends*. Supposing some couple had come at that late hour to





have the marriage knot tied, he came down to let them in. When the door was opened they stepped inside and gave him a tremendous whipping with their willow sticks, leaving no whole spot on his skin. His wife attempted to interfere and call the neighbors, but they very coolly told her that if she stirred or attempted to scream they would give her a heavy dose of the same medicine. When they thought his punishment was about equal to his deserts, they gave him a solemn lecture on the cause of it. They told him they now felt satisfied for all the abuse he had heaped on their father, and were willing to call it even between him and them.

They gave him fair warning that if he again repeated any of his impositions on their father, either by word or deed, they would repeat their punishment, but with still greater severity. They warned him not to rely upon their father's forbearance, as they had provided certain means of procuring swift intelligence respecting his conduct, and secret and certain means of making him feel their vengeance, though a thousand men were guarding his door.



The minister was very superstitious, and inferred from their language that they had some secret league with the devil. This thoroughly frightened him, and having no desire to be tormented before his time he ever afterwards let Edward Wanton most religiously alone.

On coming out of the house they found Caesar at the door with two horses, and off they started for Rhode Island, knowing full well that as soon as the whipping was known to the faithful, both Scituate and Plymouth Colony would be too hot to hold them.

The Presbyterians were soon apprized of the punishment which had been inflicted on their minister, when twenty strong fellows, mounted on the best horses they could find, set off in pursuit of the flagellant fugitives.

About three o'clock in the morning, William and John found their horses a good deal blown by the hard pace at which they had travelled, and spying a large tavern with lights in the windows, indicating that the people were awake in the house, they resolved to stop and feed their horses and get some refreshment for themselves.



The pursuing party, after riding a few miles, exchanged horses at a farm house on the road, and had made a second change just before their arrival at the tavern, thereby enabling them to get over the ground much faster than the Wantons. Seeing the lights in the tavern, and feeling pretty sure that under such circumstances a mug of flip was obtainable, they all agreed to halt and refresh themselves, and at the same time make inquiries in regard to the fugitives.

Just as William and John were getting something to eat the pursuing party drove up, and leaving their horses tied up in the front, they entered the house. Meanwhile, the Wantons, having discovered their pursuers, rushed out by a back door, and without waiting a moment, took two of their best horses and rode off with all speed.

The Presbyterians were not long in following, but the Wantons, having a good start of them with fresh horses, they could not overtake them. After a long and exciting chase the pursuers, with jaded horses, reluctantly turned back to finish the flip which they had but just tasted when they were disturbed by the



escape of the young men. Finding the cheer at the tavern pretty good, they resolved to repay themselves for their failure to catch the runaways by having a good time. They remained there all that day and night, and the next morning rode home and gave the people of Scituate a fearful account of their hardships, and received credit among their neighbors for having ridden incessantly for thirty-six hours.

When the Wantons arrived at Fall River their minds were relieved. Here they rested themselves and their horses, and on the next day reached Newport in safety.

But Governor Wanton was not permitted to perfect his schemes for carrying on the war with Spain. He had been annually re-elected to the office of governor for seven years, or until 1742, when he died on the 5th May of that year. He was laid in the Coddington burial ground, where a marble monument marks his resting place. His portrait in the State House in Providence, which was taken in early life, shows him to have been a man of middling stature, thin features and of fair complexion.





JOHN WANTON, eldest son of Governor John, born 22nd tenth month, 1697, had the following children,\* as appears from his family Bible: 1. Mehitable, born September 6, 1719; 2. Edward, born April 8, 1721; 3. John, born January 1, 1723; 4. Ann, born July 25, 1728; 5. William, born March 9, 1730; 6. second Mehitable, November 1, 1732; 7. second Edward, September 9, 1733; 8. Mary, born January 10, 1736; 9. third Mehitable, born March 8, 1738, and died at Boston, December 1, 1839, aged one hundred and one years; 10. Jonas Langford, born May 25, 1740, died November 30, 1827, at Cranston, aged eighty-seven, and left no children; 11. Sarah, born May 3, 1742, who married Latham Thurston, February 4, 1768.

Of the children of Elizabeth Wanton, born in 1700, who married John Cupitt; of Susanna, born in 1704, died in 1740, who married Joseph Slocum; and Mary, born in 1707, died 1737, who married

\*Mr. Savage, in his Genealogical Dictionary, (volume iv., page 495,) makes an error in giving the names of the children of Governor John Wanton. The names he gives are those of the children of Joseph, the first son of Edward, who married the daughter of Gideon Freeborn.



Latham Thurston, I have no knowledge. Their names do not appear in the family Bible.

JAMES WANTON, the youngest son of Governor John W., born the 16th of the seventh month (July or September), 1717, married Patience ——, August 6, 1741, and had the following children, as appears by the family Bible: 1. Rebecca, born March 21, 1746. 2. John, born January 19, ——; 3. James, born June 12, 1750; 4. Mary, born June 15, 1753, died July 17, same year; 5. George, born June 9, 1755; 6. Hannah, born May 22, 175—; 7. Mary, born February 23, 1761, and 8. Benjamin, born March 11, 1763, died September 14, 1765.

MICHAEL WANTON, the ninth child of Edward Wanton, was born in 1679, and settled on the paternal estate in Scituate, Massachusetts. His marriage to Mary Mew of Scituate, the 15th of eleventh month, 1704, is on the town records; but she was born in Newport. He was a man of meek and quiet spirit, on whose shoulders the spiritual mantle of his father descended, succeeding him as a religious teacher of



the Society of Friends, in Scituate. He inherited his father's homestead, his ship-yards, his business, and a very considerable portion of his personal estate. His business faculties were very good, and he greatly augmented the estate which he inherited. His children were : Ruth, born in 1705 ; Mary, born in 1707 ; Stephen, born in 1709. Mary Mew died 22nd fifth month. 1711. On the 2nd of eleventh month, 1717, Michael married, for his second wife, Abigail Carr, widow of William Carr, of Jamestown. She was the daughter of Robert Barker, of Pembroke, and returned there after she became a widow. The children of Michael and Abigail were Susannah, born 1717 ; Hannah, born 1721, and Michael, born 1724. We learn from letters preserved in the family that Michael Wanton travelled much on missionary tours, and was a successful and beloved minister. He did not possess the fiery eloquence of his father, but there was a vein of solemn and instructive thought, and a spirit of pure, loving zeal for the truth running through his discourses that greatly tended to build up his hearers in their most holy faith. Indeed, it was said that, "although



there was not so great an increase in numbers during his ministry as under that of his father, yet the members were in a much better spiritual condition. They could give a better reason for the faith that was in them, and they abounded more in love and in good works."

Mary, second daughter of Michael Wanton, born 1707, married Daniel Coggeshall of Portsmouth, July 27, 1726, whose daughter Abigail, born February 14, 1737, married Silas Casey, of East Greenwich, ancestor of Major General Casey, U. S. Army.

Stephen Wanton, son of Michael, born 1709, inherited the family estate, which he sold to John Stetson in 1740, and removed to Newport, where he died in 1760, aged 56 years. He married Mary, daughter of Samuel Clarke, of Conanicut, sister of Joseph Clarke, General Treasurer, April 7, 1736, by whom he had the following children: 1. Michael, born 1740, died June 13, 1756; 2. Samuel, born May 1, 1743, died June 16, 1744; 3. Hannah,\* born 1747, who married James Gould, December 7, 1780, and died April 1, 1831, aged 84 years; 4. Mary,

\*See appendix for genealogy of Gould family.





born 1752, died May 4, 1818, aged 67; 5. Ruth, born April 16, 1753, died May 22, 1756; 6. Martha, born 1758, married Capt. John Stanton, and died May 20, 1836, aged 78 years.

Stephen Wanton was brought up in his father's business of ship-building, but having different tastes took no active part in it. He had a fine education and was of a studious turn, but had no taste for politics. His conversational powers were of a high order; these, with his courtly and agreeable manner, gave him a fine position in the social circle.

In 1739 he removed to Newport, and with capital furnished by his grandfather Clarke, and his uncles William and John, he entered into the West India trade, in which he employed many ships. Two years later his father, Michael, died, when he inherited one-third his fortune. He now sold his ship-yard, and gave his whole attention to commerce. His business was large; indeed, at this time, the commerce of Newport is said to have been equal to that of New York. After a few years, Stephen Wanton found his fortune had so much increased that he said "more would be a burden" to him; he,



therefore, retired from business altogether, relinquishing it in favor of his two nephews, sons of his sister, Ruth Freeborn, who had been brought up in his counting-room. Newport, even at this early date, was a favorite resort for intellectual and wealthy families from England. Officers of the British Navy, travellers and Huguenot refugees also resorted here, so that the society was the most refined and intelligent then to be found in the British colonies.

STEPHEN WANTON, tenth child of the first Edward, born in 1682, lived and died in Newport, leaving no children.

PHILIP WANTON, eleventh and youngest child of the first Edward, was born in 1686, lived in Newport, and united the business of merchant and apothecary. He married Hannah, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Clarke) Rodman, October 31, 1711. He died in 1735, and was buried in the Clifton Burial Ground. His children were: 1. Walter, born November 27, 1712; 2. Hannah, born July 15, 1715, married, March 15, 1737, Latham Stanton, who died October 4, 1757; 3. Philip, born May 31, 1719;



4. Thomas, born March 14, 1722; 5. Mary, born March 29, 1725, married Thomas Borden, November 3, 1748; 6. Elizabeth, born (probably 1727), married William, son of William and Abigail Robinson, May 17, 1750.

PHILIP WANTON, third son of Philip and grandson of the first Edward, was born May 31, 1719. He succeeded to his father's business of a merchant and apothecary, and married (1.) Elizabeth Casey, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Hicks) Casey, of Newport, December 28, 1748. She died June 25, 1757, aged 35 years. (2.) Sarah Lawton, widow, May 28, 1761; who died January 1796. By his first wife he had Elizabeth, born October 28, 1756. By his second wife, Philip, born April 1, 1762, who moved to Alexandria, Va., in 1790; Hannah, born April 30, 1763, died May 3, 1794; Sarah, born Nov. 22, 1764; Mary, born September 18, 1766, and Walter Clarke, born July 15, 1768, and died at sea.

PHILIP WANTON, of Alexandria, Virginia, third son of the last-named Philip, and great-grandson of the first Edward, was born April 1, 1762, and died



February 27, 1832. He married Mary (Pancoast) Saunders, widow of John Saunders, of Philadelphia, May 31, 1792. She was born in 1762, and died November 26, 1846, aged 84 years. They had the following children: 1. Hannah Shreeves, born April 1, 1793, died August 11, 1794; 2. Hannah Shreeves, born August 10, 1795, died Oct. 13, 1860, unmarried; 3. William Rodman, born March 27, 1798, died September 7, 1849; 4. Elizabeth Pancoast, born August 27, 1800, died September 6, 1803; 5. Mary Hewes,\* born March 1, 1803, married John Richardson Pierpont, September 26, 1833, died October 15, 1876.

WILLIAM RODMAN WANTON, of Alexandria, son of the foregoing Philip, born March 27, 1798, married Mary Elizabeth Hewes, born in 1813 and died in Washington, D. C., December 27, 1876, aged 63.

\*MARY HEWES WANTON, born March 1, 1803, died Oct. 15, 1876, married Sept. 6, 1833, John Richardson Pierpont, of Obed, from Loudon County, Virginia, who was born Nov. 15, 1799. Their children were: 1. A daughter born January 1, 1835, died in infancy; 2. William Wanton Pierpont, born March, 1836, died Aug. 19, 1842; 3. John Edwin Pierpont, born March 23, 1841.





years. He died September 7, 1849. They had the following children: 1. William Rodman, born — died 1872; 2. Julia; 3. Mary; 4. Hannah; 5. John; 6. Virginia.

Governor GIDEON WANTON, son of Joseph, of Tiverton, grandson of the first Edward, and nephew of William and John, was the third Governor of the Wanton name. He was born October 20, 1693; married Mrs. Mary Codman, February 6, 1718, and died September 12, 1767, at the age of 74. His wife died September 3, 1780, at the age of 87, and was laid in the Friends' Burial Ground, Newport. His children were: 1. Gideon, Jr.; 2. John G., born in 1729; 3. Joseph, Jr., born February 8, 1730, and 4. Edward. The house where he lived, in Broad street, Newport, is occupied by Mrs. Benjamin Hazard, a descendant.

Gideon Wanton held the office of General Treasurer from 1733 to 1743, and two years later was chosen Governor, succeeding William Greene. He held the office one year, and in 1747 was again chosen for one year. Two of his sons, John and



Gideon, Jr., were long in public life. Both were members of the General Assembly when the Declaration of Independence was ratified by the State.

Shortly before Gideon Wanton came into office, war had broken out anew between Great Britain and France, and the former was devising plans to drive the French from Canada. A pressing letter was received by his predecessor from the Duke of Newcastle, calling upon him to furnish men, provisions and shipping to Commodore Warren, who was then engaged in fitting out an expedition against the French.

A letter was also received from Gov. Shirley of Massachusetts, a few days after Gideon Wanton had been installed as Governor, calling for assistance in raising troops for the expedition against Cape Breton. This was followed by others more pressing, calling for seamen for manning the ship *Vigilant*, which had been captured by Commodore Warren from the French. In one of these letters Governor Shirley says that he has issued his warrants for impressing seamen, but finds his "endeavors to be of little purpose, as all mariners subject to impressment fly to



Rhode Island to avoid it, and are there sheltered and encouraged, when there are many hundreds of foreign seamen walking the streets of Newport, while scarce one is to be found in Boston." He then urges Governor Wanton to exert himself to secure the seamen wanted, which he thinks may be accomplished either by offering a bounty to volunteers, or by impressing.

The taking of Louisburg by the English forces, in which both Massachusetts and Rhode Island took part, is an event well known in history. In order to keep possession of this place, which was spoken of by Sir Peter Warren, the officer commanding the English fleet, as "the key to all the French settlements upon the continent," that officer wrote to Governor Wanton for assistance. He asked for soldiers for the garrison, armed and victualed for seven or eight months. The people of Rhode Island were invited to Louisburg to trade, and, as an additional inducement, Sir Peter writes that "there are several French prizes here, which will be condemned and disposed of, and many more will, no doubt, fall into our hands daily, by our cruisers." Governor



Shirley at the same time called upon Governor Wanton to furnish gunpowder, of which there was a short supply at Louisburg. He adds, "I must desire your Honor to lay an embargo upon all the powder now lying in your stores or magazines (as I have done for several months past in Massachusetts) so as to secure it for the service of the expedition against Cape Breton, at the market price."

The General Assembly had voted to raise two hundred men for the Canada expedition. Governor Shirley acknowledges the arrival of seventy-five of these for the ship *Vigilant*, and urges Governor Wanton to raise more landmen, "as there is great danger of Louisburg's being snatched from us, before his majesty shall garrison it, and the fortifications be repaired." A few days later, Commodore Warren wrote to Governor Wanton that his squadron had taken a rich East India ship, whose cargo would be sold, and invited the merchants of Rhode Island to come and make purchases.

The sloop *Tartar*, which had been built in Rhode Island and placed under command of Captain Fones, reached Louisburg in safety, and joined the squadron





under Commodore Warren. In a letter from Captain Fones to Governor Wanton he says: "I now have the pleasure of walking Louisburg streets, which is the strongest place I ever saw; my people are all alive and most of them well."

General Sir William Pepperell, who commanded the New England troops at the taking of Louisburg, wrote to Governor Wanton, congratulating him and the people of Rhode Island for the success of his majesty's army. "The three companies," writes Sir William, "raised in your Colony for our assistance, with commission from you, arrived here last week, and you may be assured shall have my favor and countenance in everything in my power." He states that a large stock of provisions and warlike stores for the army, to be laid in before the fall, are necessary. That there should be provisions for three thousand or four thousand men, for twelve or fifteen months, and he farther urges Governor Wanton to render all the aid in his power, in order that the place may be prevented from falling into the hands of the French again. He also speaks of the capture of a second French vessel, "a vastly rich South Sea-



man." Governor Phipps, of Massachusetts, also writes about the prize, which he says was taken within sight of the garrison, and "had £400,000 pounds in money, besides a valuable cargo of merchandise." He estimated the value of the captures, with cost of French ships, to be nearly £1,000,000 sterling.

Governor Phipps calls upon Governor Wanton for farther aid. "Massachusetts," he says, "is exhausted of men, provisions, clothing, ammunition and other things necessary for the support of the garrison at Louisburg." Not only these are wanted, but money also. Massachusetts had also contributed largely in money for the expedition, and Governor Phipps thinks the other provinces should not object to subjecting themselves to the charge of a few thousand pounds. "For if the place should be recovered by the French, for want of sufficient strength to hold it, the blame must lie upon the colonies that refuse to bear their part in the charge and dangers of this important enterprise."

To those now living it may seem singular that so great a power as Great Britain should have called



upon this little Colony for such a number of men, with provisions and shipping, to aid in the conquest of Canada; but she knew that her New England colonists had accomplished much in the frontier wars, and had been equally successful on the high seas; besides, they were near the field of operations, and could reach there in a few days. Massachusetts had always led the way with men, money and ships, in defence of her mother country, and Rhode Island had only been second to her in numbers. In privateers, the latter had furnished more than the other colonies, and some were so jealous of her prominence at sea that her leading commercial men were charged with being in complicity with the pirates, of which there were such numbers on our coast and among the West India Islands.

The correspondence between Governor Wanton, the Duke of Newcastle, Governor Shirley, Admiral Warren, Sir William Pepperell,\* Sir William Phipps

\* Sir William Pepperell was an American merchant, living in the Province of Maine. About the year 1727 he was chosen a member of his majesty's council, of the Province of Massachusetts, to which he was annually elected until his death, a period of thirty-two years. He commanded the expedition against Louisburg, at the time of its capit-



and Richard Partridge, the agent for Rhode Island in London, is of great interest, but too voluminous for a place in this sketch. It is evident, however, from Governor Wanton's letters, that, although a Quaker, he was a belligerent one, and fully equal to the emergency; and had he been governor and captain general of Rhode Island in 1861, would have been among the first to send a regiment of Rhode Island volunteers to Washington. Through life Gideon Wanton was distinguished for his talents and for the influence he exerted in the affairs of the Colony. Unfortunately, no portrait of him remains.

JOHN G. WANTON, son of Governor Gideon Wanton, born in 1729, was much in public life, and was one of the corporators of Rhode Island College, in 1764. He became a distinguished merchant of Newport during the Revolutionary war. He married, first, Abigail Robinson, of South Kingstown, Octo-

ulation. After this achievement he went to England, where he received a first colonelcy in the army; in 1755, the rank of major-general; and two years later, that of lieutenant general. He was also rewarded with the dignity of baronet and the thanks of the ministry. An exhaustive memoir of him was written by Dr. Usher Parsons, of Providence, R. I., and published in 1855.





ber 5, 1752. She died March 3, 1754, aged twenty-three years, and was buried on the estate, now (1878) belonging to the Hon. William Sprague. His second wife was Mary, daughter of Governor Henry Bull, whom he married in 1760. He died July 2, 1799, aged sixty-eight years. Dean Berkeley, who was the friend of Mr. Wanton, stood godfather to Mary Bull when she was christened; and, always proud of this distinction, the latter kept a copy of his "Minute Philosopher" in her possession as long as she lived. Mary Bull Wanton died, at Newport, March 12, 1821, aged ninety-two years and ten months.

The children of John G. and Mary (Bull) Wanton were Mary, born August 20, 1763, and Gideon, born July 19, 1766. The latter died, in Newport, November 27, 1786.

Upon the arrival of the French fleet at Newport, in 1780, Mr. Wanton received and entertained the officers at his house with great hospitality; and it was on this occasion that Major Daniel Lyman, aid to General Heath, who was deputed to welcome the French, first saw Mary Wanton, whom he after-



wards married. Later, the major became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island.\*

Governor JOSEPH WANTON, son of Governor William Wanton, was born August 15, 1705. Like his father before him, he adhered to the Church of England. He married Mary, daughter of John Still Winthrop, of New London, and had the following children: 1. Joseph, born 1730; 2. William, who was collector of customs at St. John, New Brunswick; 3. John, who died young; 4. Catherine, who married, first, Robert Stoddard, November 29, 1767, second, Dr. Destailleur, a surgeon in the British army; 5. Mary, who married Captain John Coddington, of Newport, January 28, 1759; 6. Elizabeth, who married, in 1762, Thomas Wickham, of Newport, whose descendants live in Western New York; 7. Ruth, who married William Browne, Governor of Bermuda; and 8. Ann, born March, 1734, who married her cousin, Winthrop Saltonstall of New London, son of General Gurdon S. and grandson of Governor Saltonstall, April 17, 1763, and had five children. She died in 1784. See Appendix for descendants.

\* For notice of the descendants of Judge Lyman, see appendix.



Joseph was an opulent merchant of Newport and connected by blood and affinity with the wealthiest and most prominent families in the Colony. His portrait, evidently an original, in the Redwood Library at Newport, and of which a copy has been made for the State House in Providence, shows him to have been a remarkably handsome man. He was called one of the most courtly gentlemen in the Colony; of pleasing manners and cultivated tastes.

In his "History of the Narragansett Church," Mr. Updike says that this Joseph was, in 1764 and 1767, elected deputy governor through the Hopkins influence. This is evidently incorrect, as there was a Joseph Wanton, Jr., son of Governor Joseph, who had been for many years a member of the General Assembly, and who, it is believed, was the deputy governor. There is a letter (see Peterson's Rhode Island, page 209) from Stephen Hopkins to the people of the State, dated April 16, 1764, in praise of the character of the Mr. Wanton who was deputy governor under him, in which he says, "he is but a boy about thirty-four years old." Now, Governor Joseph Wanton, being born in 1705, was then fifty-nine



years of age, which clearly shows that he was not the deputy governor, as supposed.

There has been a question who the Joseph Wanton, Jr., was, who was lieutenant governor in 1764-1767, as Governor Gideon Wanton had a son, Joseph, born in 1730. In the record of births, at Newport, is the name of Joseph Wanton, born 1730. (His father's name is not stated.) Now, Governor Joseph, who was born in 1705 had a son named Joseph, who was his eldest child. We find, too, that by the records of Harvard College, Joseph Wanton, Jr., born February 8, 1730, entered college at sixteen and a half years of age. Again, Mr. Hopkins, in 1764, says, the Mr. Wanton who was elected deputy governor, was thirty-four years old. All these, evidently, refer to the same individual, and show that it was the son of Governor Joseph who was the deputy governor under Hopkins, and, furthermore, that he, and not Governor Joseph, as has been supposed, was the graduate of Harvard.\*

\* On the 3d of June, 1771, George Bissett preached a sermon in Trinity Church, Newport, "at the funeral of Mrs. Abigail Wanton, late consort of the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Jr., who died on the 31st of





Joseph Wanton was elected governor of Rhode Island, in 1769, succeeding Governor Lyndon.

An important event, in the history of the Colony, occurred at Newport, in July, following the installation of Governor Wanton into office. It may, indeed, be called the first open resistance, in the colonies, against the acts of the British government, which led to their final separation from the mother country.

It appears that a revenue vessel, called the *Liberty*, commanded by Captain Reid, had been fitted out by the commissioners of the King's revenue or customs, at Boston, and sent to the waters of Rhode

May, in the thirty-sixth year of her age." This lady was, doubtless, the first wife of the deputy governor.

*Rivington's* [New York] *Royal Gazette* of August 9, 1789, has the following notice, which, we think, refers to the same individual: "It is with inexpressible sorrow we announce to the public that yesterday morning, at 7 o'clock, departed this life, the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Jr., Esq., superintendent general of the police of Rhode Island. The extreme distress in which the friends of this gentleman are involved by so melancholy an event will only admit them to say, that his funeral will proceed this afternoon from the quarters of Major John Morrison, deputy commissary general, in Maiden Lane, and that they request his acquaintances in this city, as well as the Loyalists from the different colonies, will attend the same, as the last office they can perform to the memory of their friend."



Island, to detain and examine all vessels suspected of violating the revenue laws. This vessel took a brig and sloop, belonging to Connecticut, which she brought into Newport. Here some difficulties took place, and for some slight provocation, the captain of the brig was fired on by those on board the *Liberty*. Obtaining no redress for this outrage, a party, said to have been chiefly from Connecticut, boarded the obnoxious vessel, cut her cables, and suffered her to drift on shore near Long Wharf. They then cut away her masts, threw her armament overboard, when she drifted on to Goat Island. The first night she lay here, a party went over from Newport and burned her. Her boats were run up Long Wharf, thence up the parade, and through Broad street by the populace and burned.

The provocation which led to the firing, is thus given in the *Providence Gazette* of July 22, 1769.

"The captain of the brig, it appears, went on board his vessel for some linen and clothes, when he was informed that they had been removed on board the *Liberty*. On enquiring for his sword, he was told that it was in the cabin, where a man lay on it. He



went below to get it, when he was accosted by oaths and imprecations. He then seized his sword, which the sloop's men endeavored to take from him, but failed to do so; and getting into his boat, set out for the shore. The revenue sloop was then hailed and informed of what had taken place, when she fired on the boat, which proceedings were witnessed by people on the wharf."

As Captain Reid had not shown his commission to Governor Wanton, the people obliged him to order his men on shore, in order to discover who had fired on Captain Packwood.

This event, with attempts by the colonists to evade the custom duties, led to a correspondence between Governor Wanton and the Earl of Hillsborough, in which the latter complained that "the officers of the customs have received no support or countenance from the government of Rhode Island, and have, in vain, applied to the superior court for writs of assistance in cases where such writs were judged necessary." In conclusion, Lord Hillsborough says: "Any further exhortation on that subject would be useless; and it must remain with those to



whom the powers of government in Rhode Island are entrusted to consider what must be the consequence, if, after such repeated admonitions, the laws of the kingdom are suffered to be trampled upon, and violences and outrages of so reprehensible a nature are committed with impunity."

Governor Wanton, in his reply to the Earl of Hillsborough, under date of November 2, 1771, enters into an explanation of the charges against the Colony, and, with regard to the latter charge, says :

"As to that part of the complaint against the superior court, for refusing writs of assistance, the General Assembly, willing to know the truth of that matter, called the justices of the superior court before them, to give account of what applications had been made to them for writs of assistance, and what was the occasion they refused to give the officers of the customs that protection the law required them to give ; that all the justices of the superior court declared, upon their honors, to the Assembly, that no kind of application, whatsoever, had been made to them, or any of them by any of the officers of the customs, for any writ of assistance or other protection of any kind, for several years past ; and the





justices of the Superior Court further said, that when any application should be made to them, by the custom house officers for writs of assistance or other protection, they would readily give them every assistance in the execution of their duty which the law put it in the power of the court to give."

"And now, my Lord," continues Governor Wanton, "permit me, in my turn, to complain of the officers of his majesty's customs, in America, for their abusing and misrepresenting the Colony of Rhode Island and its officers: for how unkind and ungentelemanly-like it is for officers, sent abroad by the crown to reside in the colonies, by every means in their power to traduce and even falsely accuse his majesty's faithful subjects of this Colony to their sovereign and his ministers of state."

"I am now to thank your Lordship for the kind concern you are pleased to express for the Colony and its safety, and hope that your Lordship will transfer your reprehensions from the innocent Colony of Rhode Island to those guilty officers who have so shamefully misinformed you in all those matters contained in your Lordship's letter."

I am Sir, &c., &c.,

JOSEPH WANTON.

To the Right Honorable the  
EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH.



In March, 1772, the British armed schooner *Gaspee*, of eight guns, Lieutenant Dudingston, accompanied by the *Beaver*, made their appearance in the waters of Narragansett Bay, on duties similar to those of the "*Liberty*," to which allusion has been made, viz. : to prevent breaches of the revenue laws, and to stop the illicit trade, carried on in the Colony. The commander of the *Gaspee* was quite as exacting as Captain Reid of the *Liberty* had been. He stopped all vessels, including small market boats, without showing his authority for so doing; and even sent the goods he had illegally siezed to Boston for trial, contrary to an act of Parliament, which required such trials to be held in the colonies where the seizures were made. In these acts Dudingston clearly transcended his powers. The complaints from the people of Providence against him became so numerous that Deputy Governor Sessions submitted the question to Chief Justice Stephen Hopkins. The latter promptly gave his opinion, "that no commander of any vessel has a right to use any authority in the body of the Colony, without previously applying to the Governor, and showing



his warrant for so doing; and also being sworn to a due exercise of his office."

Deputy Governor Sessions, who resided in Providence, at once wrote to Governor Wanton, apprising him of what had taken place, and that it was the opinion of the Chief Justice that the acts of the commander of the Gaspee were illegal.

Governor Wanton now sent a note, by the hands of the High Sheriff, to Lieutenant Dudingston, under date of the 22nd March, 1772, calling his attention to complaints against his "searching and detaining every little packet boat plying between the several towns." "You are requested," writes the Governor, "without delay, to produce your commission and instructions, if any you have, which was your duty to have done when you first came within the jurisdiction of the Colony." The following day Dudingston replied to Governor Wanton, saying that he had done nothing but what was his duty. "When I waited on you," writes the officer, "I acquainted you of my being sent to this government to assist the revenue. I had my commission to show you, if required, as it was even understood by all his majes-



ty's governors I have had the honor to wait on, that every officer commanding one of his majesty's vessels was properly authorized, and never did produce it unasked for." The Governor replied the same day to Lieutenant Dudingston, telling him his answer did not give him "the satisfaction he had a right to expect," and again asked him to comply with his (the Governor's) request of the previous day.

The lieutenant's sense of propriety was evidently shocked by the governor's letters, and his peremptory demand to exhibit his commission and instructions. He, therefore, enclosed the correspondence to Admiral Montagu, commanding his majesty's fleet at Boston. The admiral espoused the side of Dudingston and dispatched the following letter to Governor Wanton:

BOSTON, 8th April, 1772.

"SIR:—Lieutenant Dudingston, commander of his majesty's armed schooner, and a part of the squadron under my command, has sent me two letters he received from you, of such a nature that I am at a loss what answer to give them, and ashamed to find they came from one of his majesty's governors. He





informs me that he waited upon you, and showed you the admiralty and other orders for his proceedings; which, agreeable to his instructions, he is to do, that you may be acquainted he is on that station to protect your province from pirates and give the trade all the assistance he can, and to endeavor, as much as lays in his power, to protect the revenue officer, and to prevent (if possible) the illicit trade that is carrying on in Rhode Island.

"He, sir, has done his duty, and behaved like an officer; and it is your duty, as a governor, to give him your assistance, and not endeavor to distress the king's officers, for strictly complying with my orders. I shall give them directions, that, in case they receive any molestation in the execution of their duty, that they shall send every man so taken in molesting them to me. I am also informed, the people of Newport talk of fitting out an armed vessel to rescue any vessel the king's schooner may take carrying on an illicit trade. Let them be cautious what they do; for as sure as they attempt it, and any of them are taken, I will hang them as pirates. I shall report your two insolent letters to my officer, to his majesty's secretaries of state, and leave them to determine what right you have to demand a sight of all orders I shall give to my squadron; and I would advise you not to send your sheriff on board the king's ship



again, on such ridiculous errands. The captains and lieutenants have all my orders, to give you assistance whenever you demand it; but further, you have no business with them; and be assured, it is not their duty to show you any part of my orders or instructions to them."

I am, Sir, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Governor Wanton submitted this remarkable letter to the General Assembly, at its May session. He also submitted a draught of his own in reply, whereupon a resolution of approval was adopted, and the Governor was requested to transmit the letter to Admiral Montagu. He was further requested to transmit to the Earl of Hillsborough, secretary of state, a narrative containing all the proceedings referred to in the letter, together with a copy of the admiral's letter to him and his answer to the same.

*Governor Wanton's Letter to Admiral Montagu.*

RHODE ISLAND, May 8, 1772.

SIR:—"Your letter, dated April the 8th, at Boston, I have received. Lieutenant Dudingston has done well in transmitting my letters to you, which I sent



him ; but I am sorry to be informed there is any thing contained in them that should be construed as a design of giving offence, when no such thing was intended. But Mr. Dudlingston has not behaved so well, in asserting to you, 'he waited on me, and showed me the admiralty and your orders for his proceedings, which, agreeably to his instructions, he is to do'; but in that he has altogether misinformed you ; for he, at no time, ever showed me any orders from the admiralty, or from you ; and positively denied that he derived any authority either from you or the commissioners ; therefore, it was altogether out of my power to know, whether he came hither to protect us from pirates or was a pirate himself. You say, 'he has done his duty and behaved like an officer.' In this, I apprehend, you must be mistaken ; for I never can believe it is the duty of an officer to give false information for his superiors. As to your attempt to point out what was my duty as governor, please to be informed, that I do not receive instructions for the administration of my government from the king's admiral stationed in America.

"You seem to assert, that I have endeavored to distress the king's officers, for strictly complying with your orders. In this, you are altogether mistaken ; for I have at all times, heretofore, and shall, con-



stantly, for time to come, afford them all the aid and assistance in my power in the execution of my office.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I am greatly obliged to you for the promise of transmitting my letters to the secretary of state. I am, however, a little shocked at your impolite expression, made use of upon that occasion. In return for this good office, I shall also transmit your letter to the secretary of state, and leave to the king and his ministers to determine on which side the charge of insolence lies. As to your advice, not to send the sheriff on board any of your squadron, please to know that I will send the sheriff of this Colony at any time, and to any place within the body of it, as I shall think fit.

"In the last paragraph of your letter, you are pleased, flatly, to contradict what you wrote in the beginning; for there you assert that Dudingston, by his instructions, was directed to show me the admiralty and your orders to him; and here you assert, that I have no business with them; and assure me that it is not his duty to show me them, or any part thereof."

I am, Sir, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

TO ADMIRAL MONTAGU.

The foregoing letters present an account of the events which preceded the memorable night of the





9th of June, when the Gaspee was destroyed. That Dudingston did not act wisely, to say the least, in exerting the authority he did, without first exhibiting his commission, is evident. But it is certain, that in sending property seized by him within the County of Kent in Rhode Island, to Boston for adjudication, he was clearly in the wrong; as an act of parliament expressly declares that such seizures shall be adjudicated in the colony where the seizure is made. Dudingston seems to have been aware that this act was illegal, as he did not dare to venture on shore, having been threatened with a suit at law by the Messrs. Greene of East Greenwich, the owners of the goods seized.

As the most important event that took place during the administration of Joseph Wanton was the burning of the Gaspee, and his correspondence and action, connected with it, both before and subsequent to it, a brief account of it seems necessary.

The appearance of this British war vessel, under the command of Lieutenant Dudingston, had given great offence to the merchants of Newport and Providence by stopping all vessels, large and small, entering or



leaving any of the ports on the shores of Narragansett Bay. On the 9th of June, Captain Lindsey left Newport in his packet for Providence, followed by the Gaspee, for the purpose of examining her cargo. In this pursuit the Gaspee ran aground near Namquit Point, about seven miles below Providence. Lindsey continued up the bay and reached Providence about sunset, and lost no time in making known to Mr. John Brown, one of the most respectable merchants, the situation of the Gaspee.

Mr. Brown, at once, resolved on the destruction of the schooner; to accomplish which, he directed one of his most trusty ship-masters to collect eight of the largest long-boats in the harbor, and have their oars muffled, to prevent noise. Early in the evening a man passed through Main street, beating a drum to attract the attention of the inhabitants, whom he informed that the Gaspee was aground. He, furthermore, invited all who felt disposed to take part in an expedition to destroy the vessel, to meet at a place appointed, where boats would be in readiness to receive them. The party accordingly assembled and embarked in the boats provided for



the purpose. Captain Abraham Whipple and Captain John B. Hopkins, son of Commodore Esek Hopkins, directed the boats. When about sixty yards from the *Gaspee* they were hailed by a sentinel, but made no reply. Dudingston, himself, next hailed the boats, when a shot was fired at him, which took effect. The next minute the vessel was boarded without opposition, Dudingston and his men retreating to the cabin. The wounded officer was carefully attended by Dr. John Mawney, a young surgeon who happened to be one of the attacking party; after which he and his crew were put into boats, with their clothing and other effects, and sent on shore at Pawtuxet. The schooner was then set on fire and destroyed. As soon as Deputy Governor Sessions heard of the affair, he sought the wounded officer, on whom he bestowed every attention, providing the best surgical aid and doing all in his power to administer to his comforts.

As might be supposed, this bold affair created a great sensation throughout the British colonies. Governor Wanton issued a proclamation, offering a reward for the discovery of the offenders, and wrote



a letter to the Earl of Hillsborough, giving full particulars of the events which preceded the destruction of the vessel, as well as all the facts that could be collected regarding the transaction itself; promising "that the utmost vigilance of the civil authority should be employed to bring the perpetrators to exemplary and condign punishment."

As soon as the news of the destruction of the *Gaspee* reached England, the king issued his proclamation, which was published in the Colony, offering a reward of £500 for such information as would lead to the discovery and conviction of the perpetrators of the crime.

The king appointed a royal commission of enquiry to investigate the affair. This commission, which met at Newport, on the 5th of January, 1773, consisted of Governor Wanton, Daniel Horsmanden, chief justice of the Province of New York; Frederic Smyth, chief justice of New Jersey; Peter Oliver, chief justice of Massachusetts Bay; and Robert Auchmuty, judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, Boston.

The meeting of the royal commission, and its pro-





ceedings, which were printed in the Boston newspapers, attracted great attention throughout the colonies ; and, although a large number of witnesses were examined, and every effort, apparently, made to discover the parties engaged in the destruction of the Gaspee, they were never discovered.

Joseph Wanton was annually elected to the office of Governor until 1775 ; his last election occurring on the third Wednesday in April of that year. A few days later (April 22d), in consequence of the passage of the Boston Port Bill, the General Assembly was specially convened at Providence. But the newly elected governor and other colonial officers could not be sworn into office until the regular meeting of the General Assembly, on the first day of May ensuing. Meanwhile the battle of Lexington had been fought, and the people of the Colony, determined on immediate action, passed, at its April session, the following preamble and resolution :

“ At this very dangerous crisis of American affairs, at a time when we are surrounded with fleets and armies which threaten our immediate destruction ; at a time when fear and anxieties of the people



throw them into the utmost distress, and totally prevent them from attending the common occupations of life; to prevent the mischievous consequences that must necessarily attend such a disordered state, and to restore peace to the minds of the good people of this Colony, it appears absolutely necessary to this Assembly that a number of men be raised and embodied, properly armed and disciplined, to continue in this Colony as an army of observation, to repel any insult or violence that may be offered to the inhabitants; and also, if it be necessary for the safety and preservation of any of the colonies, to march out of this Colony and join and co-operate with the forces of the neighboring colonies. It is therefore voted and resolved, that fifteen hundred men be enlisted, raised and embodied, as aforesaid, with all the expedition and dispatch that the nature of things will admit of."

To this resolution, Governor Wanton and several of the assistants made the following protest:

"We, the subscribers, professing true allegiance to his majesty King George the Third, beg leave to dissent from the vote of the House of Magistrates, for enlisting, raising and embodying an army of observation of fifteen hundred men, to repel any



insult or violence that may be offered to the inhabitants, and also, if it be necessary for the safety and preservation of any of the colonies, to march them out of this Colony, to join and co-operate with the forces of the neighboring colonies.

"Because we are of opinion that such a measure will be attended with the most fatal consequences to our charter privileges, involve the country in all the horrors of a civil war, and, as we conceive, is an open violation of the oath of allegiance which we have severally taken, upon our admission into the respective offices we now hold in the Colony.

JOSEPH WANTON,	THOMAS WICKES,
DARE'S SESSIONS,	WILLIAM POTTER.*

In the Upper House, Providence, April 5, 1775."

A month later the following letter from Governor Wanton was transmitted to the General Assembly :

NEWPORT, May 2, 1775.

*To the General Assembly of the English Colony of Rhode Island,  
to be holden at Providence, on the first Wednesday of May, 1775.*

"GENTLEMEN :—As indisposition prevents my meeting you in the General Assembly, that candor I

\*Subsequently, at the June Session of the General Assembly, William Potter made such a satisfactory explanation and apology for appending his name to this protest, that he was re-instated in the favor of the Assembly.



have so often experienced from the Representatives of the freemen of the Colony encourages me to hope that you will excuse my personal attendance at this session. Since the last session of the General Assembly at Providence, I have had the honour of receiving a letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, dated Whitehall, the 3rd of March, 1775, enclosing the resolutions of the House of Commons, respecting the provision which they expect this Colony or Province in America to make for the common defence, and also for the civil government and the administration of justice in such Colony, both which I have directed to be laid before you; and also a letter from the Provincial Congress; which are all the public letters I have received during the recess.

"As the dispute between Great Britain and the colonies is now brought to a most alarming, dangerous crisis, and this once happy country threatened with all the horrors and calamities of civil war, I consider myself bound by every tie of duty and affection, as well as from an ardent desire to see a union between Great Britain and her colonies established upon an equitable, permanent basis, to entreat you to enter into the consideration of the resolutions of the House of Commons, and also his lordship's letter which accompanied that resolution, with the





temper, calmness and deliberation which the importance of them demands ; and with that inclination to a reconciliation with the parent state, which will recommend your proceedings to his majesty and both houses of parliament.

"The prosperity and happiness of this Colony is founded in its connection with Great Britain, 'for if once we are separated, where shall we find another Britain to supply our loss? Torn from the body to which we are united by our religion, liberty, laws and commerce, we must bleed at every vein.'

"Your charter privileges are of too much importance to be forfeited. You will, therefore, duly consider the interesting matters now before you with the most attentive caution ; and let me entreat you not to suffer your proceedings for accommodating these disputes, which have too long subsisted between both countries, to have the least appearance of anger or resentment ; but that a kind, respectful behaviour towards his majesty and both houses of parliament, accompany all your deliberations. I shall always be ready to join with you in every measure which will secure the full possession of our invaluable charter privileges to the latest posterity, and prevent the good people of this Colony from that ruin and destruction which, in my opinion, some of the orders of the late Assembly must inev-



itably involve them in, if they are not speedily repealed; for besides the fatal consequences of levying war against the king, the immense load of debt that will be incurred, if the late resolutions for raising an army of observation of fifteen hundred men within this Colony be carried into execution, will be insupportable, and must inevitably bring on universal bankruptcy throughout the Colony.

"If I have the honor of being re-elected, I shall, as I have ever done, cheerfully unite with you in every proceeding (which may be consistent with that duty and allegiance which I owe to the king and the British Constitution,) for increasing the welfare and happiness of this government."

I am, with great respect and esteem, gentlemen,

Your most humble servant,

J. WANTON.

On the 3d of May, Metcalfe Bowler, speaker of the House of Representatives, addressed a letter to Governor Wanton, informing him that he had been elected Governor of the Colony, and asks whether "he will accept of the office or not," and if so, that he will "be pleased to attend the Assembly as soon as possible."

The next day Governor Wanton sent a reply, in



which he says : "I cannot possibly attend this session, on account of my indisposition, unless I should be better than at present." To this Speaker Bowler sent the following note to the Governor-elect in reply :

PROVIDENCE, May 5, 1775.

"SIR :—I am requested by the General Assembly to transmit to your Honor, the form of a blank commission, proposed to be given to the commissioned officers of the troops that are already voted to be raised by this Colony. as an army of observation, and request your Honor's immediate answer whether your Honor will sign, as Commander-in-chief of this Colony, such commissions, when they are presented to your Honor for that purpose?

"This is sent by express, per Mr. Tears, who is ordered to return immediately with your Honor's answer ; as this Assembly does not propose to rise before the return of this express."

I am, with regard, Your Honor's

most obedient servant,

METCALFE BOWLER, *Speaker*.

To the Honorable JOSEPH WANTON, ESQ.

To this Governor Wanton sent the following reply :



"SIR:—In answer to your favor of this date, requesting to know whether I would sign, as Commander-in-Chief of this Colony, the commissions of the officers of the army about to be raised, say: that I cannot comply with it; having heretofore protested against the vote for raising men, as a measure inconsistent with my duty to the king, and repugnant to the true and real interest of this government.

"I am, with regards to the gentlemen of the Assembly, theirs, and

Your friend, and humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the Honourable METCALFE BOWLER, Esq."

At the May Session of the General Assembly the following preamble and act was passed, to prevent Governor Wanton from acting as Governor:

"WHEREAS. The ministry and parliament of Great Britain, sacrificing the glory and happiness of their sovereign, and the good of Britain and the colonies, to their own ambitious and lucrative views, have entered into many arbitrary, illegal resolutions, for depriving his majesty's subjects in America of every security for the enjoyment of life, liberty and property, and have sent and are still sending troops and





ships of war into these colonies, to enforce their tyrannical mandates, and have actually begun to shed the blood of innocent people of these colonies ; in consequence whereof, this Assembly, at the session held on the 22nd April last, passed an act for raising one thousand five hundred men as an army of observation, and to assist any of our sister colonies.

"And whereas, The Honorable Joseph Wanton, the Governor of this Colony, did enter a protest against said act, conceived in such terms as highly to reflect upon the General Assembly, and upon the united opposition of America to the aforesaid tyrannical measures ;

"And whereas, The said Joseph Wanton, Esq., hath neglected to issue a proclamation for due observation of Thursday, the 11th of May instant, as a day of fasting and prayer, agreeable to an act passed at the said session ;

"And whereas, The said Joseph Wanton hath been elected to the office of Governor of this Colony for the present year, and been notified thereof by this Assembly, notwithstanding which, he hath not attended this General Assembly and taken the oath required by law ;

"And whereas, The said Joseph Wanton, Esq., hath positively refused to sign the commissions for



the officers appointed to command the troops so ordered to be raised. By all which he hath manifested his intentions to defeat the good people of these colonies in their present glorious struggle to transmit inviolate to posterity those sacred rights which they have received from their ancestors :—

*Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly :*

“That the Deputy Governor and his assistants be, and they are hereby forbid to administer the oath of office to the said Joseph Wanton, Esq., unless in free and open General Assembly, according to the unvaried practice of this Colony, and with the consent of this Assembly. That until he, the said Joseph Wanton, shall have taken the oath of office as aforesaid, it shall not be lawful for him to act as Governor of this Colony in any case whatever ; and that every act done by him in the pretended capacity of Governor, shall be null and void, and shall not operate as a warrant or discharge to any person acting by his orders or under his authority.”

At the June Session of the General Assembly, Governor Wanton appeared and demanded that the oath of office should be administered to him. The following is his letter :



EAST GREENWICH, June 13, 1775.

GENTLEMEN : — "The Charter of this Colony, granted by his majesty King Charles the Second, expressly ordains, 'that all and every Governor 'elected and chosen by virtue of that charter, shall 'give his engagement before two or more of the 'assistants of the Colony, for the time being,' notwithstanding which, I observe, by an act of yours, passed at the Session in Providence, on the first Wednesday in May, and published in the *Newport Mercury*, you have thought fit to forbid the Deputy Governor, or assistants, to administer the oath of office to me, until I appear in open Assembly; and even then, not without your consent.

"As I had the honor of being chosen Governor of this Colony at the election held at Providence on the first Wednesday in May; but through indisposition could not attend at that session, I now appear, in order to take the oath of office prescribed by law, and request that you would give the necessary directions for the due administering of the same. As you have been pleased to arraign my administration, by charging me with manifesting an intention to defeat these colonies in their struggle for the preservation of their rights, I shall here take the freedom to answer the several allegations you have exhib-



ited against me, with as much conciseness as possible.

"I have ever considered it as the distinguishing privilege of an Englishman, to give his opinion upon any public transaction, wherein the welfare and happiness of the community to which he belonged was immediately concerned, without incurring a public censure therefor.

"Upon this principle, I presumed to exercise the right of private judgment, when I protested against the vote for raising troops within this Colony; for I conscientiously believed it was a measure replete with the most injurious consequences to the good people of this government; and, therefore, from an anxious concern for their happiness, bore my public testimony against it. I cannot conceive that in so doing, I have been guilty of any misdemeanor, and consequently not reprehensible for that, which ought only to be considered by those of a different sentiment, as an error of judgment.

"As to the second allegation, for not issuing a proclamation for the due observance of the 11th of May, as a day of fasting and prayer throughout the Colony, I shall only observe that the proclamation was begun and would have been published and sent into the Colony, on Monday. the 8th of May, had





you not by your own vote, on the 7th, divested me of that power which might have been thought necessary for enjoining the due observation thereof. I had no design to counteract your intentions in that matter; for in a time of such universal distress, it is my opinion, we cannot act a more proper and rational part, than confessing our manifold sins before Almighty God, and deprecating his judgments.

"The third allegation you have thought proper to adduce against me of non-attendance at the session in Providence, is without the least colorable pretext, after having twice informed you, during that session, that indisposition prevented my attending; I again confirm it, and am extremely sorry to find, by any of your proceedings, it should be doubted.

"To the fourth allegation you have been pleased to exhibit against me, of not signing the commissions for the officers appointed to command the troops to be raised by this Colony, the following observations, I imagine, if considered with candor, will be a sufficient justification of my conduct in that affair.

"The vote for raising of men, upon very mature deliberation, I had considered as a measure pregnant with the most fatal consequences to the good people of this Colony; upon that principle I protested against the vote; and it would, therefore,



have been highly improper in me to have given commissions for the execution of a measure, which, in my opinion, was subversive of the true interest of this government.

"Upon the strictest examination into my past administration, I cannot impeach myself with the least intention of having designedly executed any measure which might prove detrimental to the rights of this Colony.

"I am closely united to the inhabitants by every endearing tie; and their happiness I consider as inseparably connected with mine; I shall, therefore, whether in public or private life, constantly pursue such a line of conduct as in my opinion will have a tendency to increase the reputation and felicity of every part of this once happy Colony."

I am, gentlemen,

Your sincere friend, and humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of Rhode Island, &c.,  
now sitting at East Greenwich.

The General Assembly having taken this letter into consideration. voted,

"That the said Joseph Wanton hath not given satisfaction to this Assembly; that the recited act,



passed at the last session, continue in force until the rising of the General Assembly at its next session; and that this act be immediately published in the *Newport Mercury* and *Providence Gazette*."

At the October Session following, the General Assembly declared the office of Governor vacant by the following act :

"Whereas this General Assembly, at their session held in Providence on the first Wednesday in May last, made and passed an act (for divers weighty reasons therein mentioned,) to prevent the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esquire, who was chosen governor of this Colony at the general election held on the first Wednesday of May, from acting in said office, which act hath been continued from session to session until now, without proceeding to declare said office vacant, from a tender regard to the said Joseph Wanton; and in order to give him an opportunity to make due satisfaction for his former conduct, and of convincing this General Assembly of his friendly disposition to the United Colonies in general, and to this Colony in particular :

"And whereas, The said Joseph Wanton, by the whole course of his behaviour since the passage of said act, hath continued to demonstrate that he is



inimical to the rights and liberties of America, and is therefore rendered totally unfit to sustain that office :

"And whereas, The calamities of the present times make it necessary to this General Assembly to avail themselves of the advantages given them by charter and the fundamental principles of the Constitution :

"This General Assembly do therefore resolve and declare, &c., That the said Joseph Wanton hath justly forfeited the office of Governor of this Colony, and thereby the said office is become vacant."

Among the proceedings of the February session, 1776, of the General Assembly we find the following entry :

"Whereas, This Assembly, upon complaint and information by them received, did order Colonel Joseph Wanton to appear before them, to answer respecting his conduct ; and the Assembly having examined the same, there doth not appear any cause for detaining him ; wherefore :

"It is voted and resolved, That the said Joseph Wanton be now dismissed ; and he is now dismissed accordingly."





At the same session a resolution was passed directing the Sheriff "to take sufficient aid, and proceed to the house of the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esquire, late Governor of this Colony, and take possession of the charter and papers, together with the chest and all other things appertaining to this Colony, which are in his custody and deliver them to the committee appointed to receive them, by them to be delivered to his Honor the present Governor." On the 17th March the sheriff made a report to the General Assembly that, accompanied by two deputies, he had proceeded to the house of Governor Wanton, "and in his absence took and carried away the charter of the Colony," together with other papers and books specified, which he had delivered to the committee appointed to receive them.

With this event terminated the political life of the Wanton family in Rhode Island, a family which had been prominent for nearly a century and had held the highest positions in the Colony. The large estates of Governor Wanton, as well as those of Colonel Joseph Wanton, Junior, formerly Deputy Governor, were confiscated and sold. During the



occupation of Newport by the British forces Governor Wanton remained there and led a quiet and unobtrusive life. Upon the departure of these troops he remained unmolested and continued to be respected by the citizens. He died at Newport on the 19th of July, 1780, and was interred in the family vault in the Clifton burial place.

Note. The sources from which the materials for this sketch has been prepared are, 1. Notices of the Wanton family by the late David Gould of Newport, furnished to Samuel Deane, and printed by him in his "History of Scituate, Massachusetts." 2. Various articles in the *Newport Mercury*, by N. H. Gould. 3. Manuscripts in the library of the late John Carter Brown, copied from the originals in the British State Paper office, London. 4. The Rhode Island Colonial Records. To Dr. Henry E. Turner, Mr. David J. Gould, of Newport, and to others of Wanton blood, I am also indebted for assistance rendered.

J. R. B.



GENEALOGICAL MEMORANDA

CONCERNING

FAMILIES FORMED BY MARRIAGE CONNECTIONS

WITH THE

WANTON FAMILY.



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## FAMILIES.



- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. CAREY.      | 2. CASEY.        |
| 3. CODDINGTON. | 4. ELLERY.       |
| 5. GOULD.      | 6. HUNTER.       |
| 7. LYMAN.      | 8. HAZARD.       |
| 9. DUNNELL.    | 10. TILLINGHAST. |
| 11. ARNOLD.    | 12. MINTURN.     |
| 12. ROBINSON.  | 14. SALTONSTALL. |
| 15. COIT.      |                  |





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## GENEALOGICAL MEMORANDA.

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### CAREY.

GEORGE, son of Governor William Wanton, married Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Ellery, of Newport. She was born February 24, 1698, and died May, 1726. They had five children: 1. Elizabeth, born November 10, 1716, who married Colonel Carey, of Bristol, R. I. 2. Abigail, born August 31, 1718, who married, the Rev. John Burt, of Bristol, R. I., August 20, 174-, whose second wife was the daughter of William Ellery, father of "the signer" 3. Edward, born May 20, 1722, and died young. 4. George, born May, 1724, married Mary Hazard, April 19, 1747; and William, born March, 1726. Elizabeth (Wanton) Carey became the second wife of William Ellery, signer of the Declaration of Independence, June 28, 1767.



## CASEY.

MARY, second daughter of Michael Wanton, born —, 1707, married Daniel Coggeshall, of Portsmouth. He was born August, 1704, and died November 24, 1775. His daughter Abigail, born February 14, 1737, (died September 14, 1821,) married Silas Casey, of East Greenwich, (born June 5, 1734,) only son of Thomas Casey, (born November 18, 1706). Silas Casey died September 27, 1814. Their only son was Wanton Casey, born February 24, 1760. He married Elizabeth Goodale, of Brookfield, Massachusetts, (born October 7, 1772,) on the 25th October 1789, and died December 17, 1842. Their son, now living, (1878), General SILAS CASEY, of the United States Army, was born July 12, 1807. He married, 1. Abby Perry Pearce, daughter of the Hon. Dutee J. Pearce, of Newport, July 12, 1830; 2. Florida Gordon, of Washington, D. C., daughter of Charles and Julia (Crawford) Gordon, July 12, 1864. His son, Colonel LINCOLN CASEY, Corps of United States Engineers, was born May 10, 1831; married at West Point, N. Y., May 8, 1856, Emma, second daughter of Robert W. Weir, Professor of Drawing in the United States Military Academy, and Louisa (Ferguson), of New York City. Their children are, Thomas Lincoln Casey,



born February 19, 1857: Robert Jerauld Casey, born August 31, 1859, died August 7, 1860; Harry Weir Casey, born June 17, 1861, and Edward Pearce Casey, born June 18, 1864.



## C O D D I N G T O N .

MARY, daughter of Governor Joseph Wanton, who married Captain John Coddington, of Newport, January 28, 1759, had six children: 1. Jane, who married Martin Benson, of Newport. 2. Mary. 3. Susan, who married John Green, of Newport; had two children, John and Mary. 4. Joseph Wanton. 5. William. 6. John.





## ELLERY.

WILLIAM ELLERY, signer of the Declaration of Independence of the United States, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, born December 22, 1727; died February 15, 1820; married, 1. Ann, daughter of Jonathan and Lucy Remington, by whom he had seven children. She died in Cambridge, Mass., September 7, 1764. By his second wife, Abigail Carey, the granddaughter of George Wanton, he had ten children: 1. Abigail; died in infancy. 2. Nathaniel Carey, born May 13, 1769; died October 18, 1839. 3. John Wilkins, born May 18, 1770; died by a fall from a horse at Dighton, October 4, 1778. 4. Abigail, born 1772; died in infancy. 5. Ruth Champlin, born 1773, died 1777. 6. Susanna Kent, born June 11, 1775; died at Newport April 14, 1828. 7. Philadelphia, born November 5, 1776; died April 24, 1856. 8. Ruth Champlin (2nd), born 1779; died in infancy. 9. Mehitable Redwood, born January 4, 1784. 10. George Wanton, born December 24, 1789; died in Newport, January 26, 1867.

George Wanton Ellery married Mary, daughter of Thomas and Frances Goddard, November 13, 1823, by whom he had four



sons and two daughters, viz. : William, Christopher, Benjamin, George Wanton, Mary Goddard, and Henrietta Channing Ellery, the latter now (1878) living in Newport.

It may not be out of place here to show the connection between the family of William Ellery, "the signer," first mentioned, and several of the most distinguished families of Massachusetts. His first wife was Anne, daughter of Jonathan Remington, judge, of Cambridge, (who died in 1745), and Lucy, daughter of Governor Simon Bradstreet, of Massachusetts, whose wife was Anne, daughter of Thomas Dudley, also Governor of Massachusetts, born at Northampton, England, in 1574, died July, 1653. Anne Bradstreet was one of the earliest poetical writers of America. Her poems were first published in Boston in 1640, and reprinted in London in 1678, under the title of "The Tenth Muse lately sprung up in America "

Lucy Remington Ellery, daughter of William Ellery, married Walter Channing, first Attorney General of Rhode Island under the Federal Constitution, and father of the Rev. William Ellery Channing. Elizabeth, another daughter of William Ellery and Anne Remington, married the Hon. Francis Dana, whose son is Richard Henry Dana, the poet. There were other children of William Ellery and Anne Remington, their daughter marrying the Hon. William Stedman, of Lancaster, and their son Edmund Trowbridge Ellery, father of Conrad C. Ellery, of Providence, leaving numerous descendants, among others, Sarah Fiske Jen- nison, wife of the Rev. John Weiss, of Boston.



## GOULD.

HANNAH, daughter of Stephen and granddaughter of Michael Wanton, born May 12, 1747, married James Gould, born 25th November, 1739. He died 24th January, 1812; she died April 1, 1831. They had five children: 1. Stephen, born December 30, 1781; died October 1, 1838. 2. Isaac, born January 9, 1783; died November 3, 1853. 3. James, born July 26, 1784; died without issue. 4. David, born March 19, 1786; died at Savannah, Ga., without issue. 5. Daniel, born April 28, 1790; died November 17, 1793. Stephen Gould married Hannah, daughter of Clarke and Abigail Rodman in 1803, and had two children: Caleb, who died in infancy, and John Stanton Gould, born March 14, 1812, who died at Hudson, N. Y., August 8, 1874. Isaac Gould, second son of James, married Sarah Wallrond, daughter of Nathan and Catherine Hammett, and had five children: 1. Martha Stanton, born October 2, 1811; married Governor WILLIAM C. COZZENS, and had five children,—James, Henry, Susan, Hannah and William. 2. David James Gould, born 1813, married Eliza, daughter of Edward P. Little, ———, of Marshfield, Mass., and had four children: 1. Edward Wanton, born April 16, 1838;



married Eliza A., daughter of Richard Penn Smith, of Philadelphia, and had two sons, David J. and Edward W. II. Isaac, born September 24, 1842; died June 19, 1877, without issue.

III. Sarah W., born November 12, 1847; died February 23, 1849.

IV. Richard P., born October 21, 1850, who married Mary, daughter of Peleg Saunders, of Westerly, R. I. 3. Susan Ann, born December 19, 1814; died June 2, 1855.

4. Nathan Hammett, born April 23, 1817, who married Emily J., daughter of Isaiah Rogers, and had two children, Stephen and Emily J. 5. Mary Wanton Gould.





## HUNTER.

DESCENDANTS of Elizabeth, daughter of the first Edward Wanton, born in 1668, who married Edward Scott, of Scott Hall, Yorkshire, England. They had one daughter, Katharine, who married Godfrey Malbone, of Newport, whose daughter, Deborah Malbone, married Dr. William Hunter, from Scotland, then residing in Newport. The children of Deborah and William Hunter were: Elizabeth, born in 1762; died, unmarried, in France, in 1849. Ann, married John Falconnet, an opulent Swiss banker, and had many children and grandchildren, who are still living in Europe. Katherine, who married the Count de Cadignan, a Frenchman, and left two sons. William, who married Mary, daughter of William and Sarah Robinson, the great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Wanton. WILLIAM HUNTER was a distinguished lawyer of Newport; he was a Senator of the United States from 1811 to 1821, and subsequently became minister to Brazil. He had nine children: 1. William, now (1878) Assistant Secretary of State, Washington; married Sally Hoffman, the only child of General Walter Smith, of Georgetown, D. C., and had seven children: I. Walter, born 1836;



died 1863. II. Mary, who married Richard Jones, of Cumberland, Md., and died leaving five children. III. Blanche, died in 1864, unmarried. IV. Her twin sister, Irene, unmarried. V. William, died unmarried in 1878. VI. Lieutenant Godfred Malbone Hunter, United States Navy, died in Spain in 1873. VII. Sarah, who died in infancy. 2. Eliza Hunter, married James Birkhead, of Baltimore, Md. Their children are: I. William Hunter Birkhead, M. D., and (II.) Kate de Cadignan Birkhead. The former married Sarah, daughter of Dr. David King of Newport, and have three sons, James B., Philip Gordon, Hugh McCulloch Birkhead, and Malbone Hunter. 3. Thomas Robinson Hunter, married Mrs. Fanny Wetmore Taylor, of New York. Their children are William, Bessie, Augusta, Mary, and Charles. 4. Mary Hunter, married Edward Peirse, of the British Navy, and had no children. She died in London, England, November 19th, 1872. 5. Captain Charles Hunter, United States Navy, married Mary Stockton Rotch, of New Bedford. Their children are: I. Kate, who married Thomas Dunn, of Newport, and have two children, Charles Hunter and Robert Steed. II. Caroline Stockton, died November, 1873. III. Mary Rotch Hunter, who married Walter Langdon Kane, of New York. IV. Annie Falconnet, unmarried. Captain Hunter, with his wife and daughter Caroline Stockton, were lost at sea in the steamer "Ville du Havre," November 22, 1873, while on their way to France. 6. Katharine de Cadignan, married John Greenway, an English merchant of Monte-Video, S. A. They have one son, Charles Hunter Greenway, of the Royal Navy. 7. John Hunter, who died young. 8. Godfrey Malbone, who died young.



## LYMAN.

DESCENDANTS of Daniel Lyman and Mary Wanton, daughter of John G. and granddaughter of Governor Gideon Wanton. Daniel Lyman was born in 1756, graduated at Yale College in 1776, and married January 10, 1782. He was a colonel in the Continental army and assisted in the capture of Ticonderoga, Crown Point and St. Johns. He was a lawyer of eminence, and became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Rhode Island. He died in 1830. The following were his children: 1. Annie Maria, born November 13, 1782; married, July 4, 1802, Richard K. Randolph, of Virginia. 2. Harriet, born March 16, 1784; married, October 29, 1807, Benjamin Hazard, of Newport. 3. Margaret, born November 24, 1786; married, November 5, 1827, Samuel Arnold, of Smithfield; she died May 18, 1865. 4. Polly (or Mary), born October 7, 1788; married, July 7, 1808, Jacob Dunnell, of the Island of Madeira. 5. Eliza, born May 30, 1790; unmarried; died November 5, 1876. 6. Thomas, born December 30, 1791; unmarried; died November 4, 1832.

LYMAN BRANCH. This family embraces the families of RANDOLPH, BENJAMIN HAZARD, DUNNELL, TILLINGHAST, and L. H. ARNOLD.



7. John Wanton, born May 10, 1793; married, November 14, 1832, Eliza, daughter of Seth Wheaton, of Providence. 8. Daniel, born September 28, 1794; died August 4, 1822, unmarried. 9. Henry Bull, born November 13, 1795; married, March 2, 1829, Caroline, daughter of Elisha Dyer; died, April 24, 1874. Have one son, Daniel Wanton Lyman, born January 24, 1844. 10. Louisa, born April 16, 1797; married Dr. G. H. Tillinghast, October 16, 1825, who died August 22, 1858. She died February 10, 1869. 11. Sally, born February 14, 1799; married Governor L. H. ARNOLD, June 23, 1819; died February 19, 1837. 12. Julia Maria, born August 30, 1801; married John H. Easton, of Newport, September 18, 1826. 13. Emily, born December 23, 1804; died August 29, 1805.





## R A N D O L P H.

CHILDREN of Anne Maria (Lyman), daughter of Mary Wanton, and Richard Kidder Randolph:

I. Lucy Maria, who married Thomas K. Breeze, Paymaster, United States Navy, and had seven children, viz.: Thomas Breeze; Elizabeth, who married Thomas L. Dunnell; Kidder, Captain, United States Navy, who married a daughter of Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania; Lucy, unmarried; Frank, unmarried; Anne Maria, married Commander Marvin, United States Navy; and John, unmarried.

II. Peyton Randolph, died young.

III. Daniel Lyman Randolph, United States Navy.

IV. William Sullivan Randolph.

V. John Randolph Randolph, who married Betsy Earl Engs, born January 29, 1814. Their children are: Richard Kidder Randolph, born August 8, 1838; died June 5, 1876; married Maria Louise Jastram, who died leaving one child, Louise. Colonel GEORGE ENGS RANDOLPH, born March 29, 1840, who married Harriot Porter; had a son who died in infancy. Colonel RANDOLPH entered the Union Army on the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861, as Sergeant-major. Was wounded



in the battle of Bull Run, and in September following was placed in command of Battery E. He served in many of the hard-fought battles of the war, and was again wounded at Gettysburg. At Chancellorsville he commanded the artillery brigade of eight batteries with fifty guns. For distinguished service he was successively brevetted Major, Lieutenant-colonel, and Colonel. John Randolph, born May 5, 1841. Peyton Harrison Randolph, born February 20, 1843; died December 1, 1871. Sally Engs Randolph, born October 10, 1844. Peyton Harrison Randolph, born June 10, 1846; died July 1, 1847. Lucy Breeze Randolph, born November 5, 1847. Mary, born September 4, 1849; married Richard C. Lake, and has two children, Jessie and Amy.

VI. Benjamin Harrison Randolph.

VII. Richard Kidder Randolph.

VIII. Elizabeth Ann Randolph, married Oliver H. Perry, son of Commodore O. H. Perry, and had four children: Anne, who married James Storrow, of Boston; Julia, married — Scudder, of Boston; Elizabeth, married Rev. — Hinckes; and William Gorham Randolph.

IX. Thomas Lyman Randolph.

X. Julia Virginia Randolph.



## H A Z A R D .

CHILDREN of Harriet (Lyman), daughter of Mary Wanton, and Benjamin Hazard :

I. Emily Lyman Hazard.

II. Peyton Randolph Hazard.

III. Harriet Lyman, who married the Rev. Charles T. Brooks, and had four children, viz. : Charles M. Brooks ; Harriet L. , who married George Stevens, of Andover, Mass. ; Bessie, who married Lieutenant Maynard, United States Navy ; and Peyton Hazard.

IV. Mary Wanton, died in infancy.

V. Mary Wanton, unmarried, living.

VI. Margaret Lyman, married General ISAAC I. STEVENS, United States Army, and had four children, viz. : Hazard ; Sue, who married Captain Eskridge, United States Army ; Gertrude Maude, and Kate. General ISAAC I. STEVENS, born March 25, 1818 ; was a distinguished officer in the Union Army in the late civil war. He graduated, first in his class, at West Point in 1839. He was attached to General Scott's staff in Mexico, and took part in the battles of Contreras, Cherubusco and Chapultepec, for which he was brevetted Captain and



Major. After the war he was Governor of Washington Territory, and on the breaking out of the rebellion became Colonel of the Seventy-ninth New York Highlanders. He was made a Major-general in 1862, and, after taking part in various battles, was killed at the battle of Chantilly, 6th September, 1862. Captain HAZARD STEVENS, son of the foregoing, was a student at Harvard College on the breaking out of the civil war. Leaving his studies he entered the army, and for gallant services was brevetted as Colonel, and subsequently as Brigadier-general.

VII. Nancy, married her cousin, John Alfred Hazard.

VIII. Daniel Lyman Hazard.

IX. Thomas G. Hazard.





## DUNNELL.

CHILDREN of Mary (Lyman), daughter of Mary Wanton, and Jacob Dunnell :

I. Mary Lyman Dunnell.

II. Jacob Dunnell, resides in Pawtucket; married, first, Amey D., daughter of Isaac Brown, of Providence, and had nine children, viz. : Mary Lyman, born October 29, 1835; died February 3, 1841. Sophie Brown, born June 1, 1837; married April 5, 1865, John T. Denny, of New York, and has three children. Jacob, born February 6, 1839; married Jane Tucker Blodget, of Providence, and had five children. He died April 8, 1874. Edward Wanton, born May 8, 1841; died 1841. Amey, born June 17, 1844; died 1844. Adela, born July 5, 1845; died November 28, 1853. Alice Maude Mary, born September 15, 1846; married, September 15, 1873, Amasa M. Eaton, of Providence, and has two children. Margaret, born May 3, 1848; died August 23, 1849. William Wanton, born September 13, 1850. Married, second, Mary Atmore Robinson, daughter of William A. Robinson, of Providence, great-grandson of Governor William Robinson.

III. Margaret, married Samuel W. Peckham, of Providence, who died August, 1845.



IV. Thomas Lyman Dunnell, married Elizabeth Breeze, daughter of Thomas Breeze, United States Navy, and had three children, Thomas, Lucy Randolph, and Mary. Mrs. Dunnell died at Boston, February 2, 1878.

V. Elizabeth Lyman Dunnell.

VI. John Wanton Dunnell, who has six children.



## TILLINGHAST.

CHILDREN of Louisa (Wanton) Lyman and Dr. George H. Tillinghast:

I. Frances, born 1826; died February 17, 1842.

II. CHARLES, born June 16, 1828; married Lucy Leonard. He became Captain of Company H, Fourth Rhode Island Regiment, under General Rodman, and was killed at the battle of Newbern. A brave and gallant officer. A moment before he fell, he said to his Lieutenant, "If I fall, press on with the men."

III. Henry Lyman; enlisted in the First Rhode Island Regiment, under Colonel Burnside. On the march to Bull Run he had an attack of sunstroke, which compelled him to return home, and soon after died at the age of twenty-nine years.

IV. Julia Lyman, who married John W. Aborn, January 18, 1855, and had three children, all now (1878) living, viz.: Julia Lyman, Annie Barton, and Sophia Tillinghast.

V. Stephen Hopkins.



## ARNOLD.

CHILDREN of Sally, daughter of Mary (Wanton) Lyman, and great-granddaughter of Gov. Gideon Wanton, and Gov. Lemuel Hastings Arnold: 1. Louisa, who married Dr. William H. Hazard, of South Kingstown. 2. Lemuel H. Arnold, who married Harriet, daughter of Edward S. Sheldon. 3. Sally, who married General ISAAC P. RODMAN, who was killed at the battle of Antietam. 4. General RICHARD ARNOLD, United States Army. 5. Mary Lyman, who married George C. Robinson, of New York. 6. Daniel Lyman, killed in battle during the late civil war. 7. Margaret, who married Benjamin Aborn. 8. Cynthia, who married F. H. Sheldon and had two children, Julia and Cynthia A.

Lemuel H. Arnold, the younger, had the following children: I. Lemuel H. Arnold, Jr., who has one child, Anna Peckham. II. Edward S. III. Richard. IV. Hattie. V. Thomas Lyman. VI. Lyndon. VII. Frank Wallace Arnold.

General ISAAC P. and Sally RODMAN had the following children: I. Isaac P. II. Sally R., who married Robert Thompson. III. Mary P. IV. Thomas. V. Samuel Rodman.





George C. and Mary Lyman Robinson had the following children: I. George C. Robinson, Jr. II. Louisa L. III. Mary N. IV. Richard A. V. Margaret A. VI. Annie D. VII. Edward Wanton Robinson.

Benjamin and Margaret Aborn had four children: Benjamin, William H., Edward, and Albert C.



## MINTURN.

CHILDREN of Esther (Robinson), great-granddaughter of Mary (Wanton) Richardson and Jonas Minturn. Mary Wanton was sister of Gov. Gideon Wanton. I. Elizabeth, born 1801; died young. II. William, born 1802; drowned near New York in 1821. III. Rowland, born in 1804; died 1839. IV. Caroline, born in 1806; married D. Prescott Hall of New York. Their children were: John M., Rowland Minturn, Caroline Minturn, Elizabeth Prescott, Frances Ann, and David Prescott, who married Florence Howe, daughter of Doctor Samuel G. Howe, of Boston, and have three children. V. Thomas Minturn, born in 1808; died unmarried. VI. Lloyd Minturn, born in 1810; married, first, Julia Randolph, of Newport; second, Anne K. Robinson, of Vermont. VII. Frances, born in 1812; married Thomas R. Hazard, of Vauclease, R. I., whose children were: Mary, who died in infancy; Frances, Gertrude, and Anna, who died in early womanhood; Esther, who married Dr E. J. Dunning, of New York, and Barclay, born in 1852. VIII. Niobe, who married, first, Duncan Ferguson, of New York, second, Ward H. Blackler, of New York, and have children—Mary,



Gertrude, Edith, and Belliden. IX. Jonas Minturn, born in 1819; married Abby West, of Bristol, R. I., whose children were: Mary, who married Charles Potter of Newport, and has three children; Thomas; Gertrude, who married Captain George Sanford, United States Army, and has a daughter, Margaret; Madeline, and James. X. Agatha, who married Edward Mayer, of Vienna, Austria, and have children—John, Lloyd, and William. XI. Gertrude, who married W. H. Newman, of New York.



## ROBINSON.

MARY, daughter of Joseph Wanton and granddaughter of the first Edward, born June 10, 1700; married Thomas Richardson, General Treasurer of Rhode Island. They had one daughter, Sarah, who, in 1752, married Thomas Robinson, son of Governor William Robinson. He was born in 1730, and died in 1817. Mrs. Robinson died the same year. They had four children: 1. William T. Robinson, born 1754, who married Sarah, daughter of Samuel Franklin, of New York, in 1779. He died in 1835, she in 1811. 2. Thomas, born in 1756, and died young. 3. Mary Robinson, born in 1757, and married John Morton, of Philadelphia. He died in 1805, she in 1837. 4. Abigail, born in 1760; died at an advanced age, unmarried. 5. Thomas Richardson Robinson, born in 1761; married Jemima Fish in 1783. He died in 1851, she in 1846, aged eighty-five. 6. Rowland, born in 1763, lost at sea in early manhood. 7. Joseph Jacob, born 1765; died at an advanced age, unmarried. 8. Amy, born in 1768; married Robert Bowne, of New York. Their children were: George, who died unmarried, and Rowland, who left a daughter.

1. William T. Robinson, son of Thomas and Sarah (Franklin) Robinson, born in 1754, had twelve children: I. Esther, born





in 1782; married Jonas Minturn, of New York, and had eleven children. II. Sarah, married Joseph S. Coates, of Philadelphia, and had two children. The eldest, Joseph II., is a member of the firm of Miller & Coates, of New York, and Sarah R. Joseph II. married, first, Elizabeth W. Horner, who died without children; second, Sarah Ann Wisner. Their children were: Alma W., Ellen W., Arthur R., and Joseph S. Coates. Sarah R. Coates married Joshua Toomer, of Charlestown, S. C., and have one child, Mary Ann. III. Mary Robinson, born in 1785; married the Hon. William Hunter, and had nine children. See genealogy of Hunter family elsewhere. IV. Thomas Robinson, died in Berlin, unmarried, aged 23. V. Samuel, unmarried, drowned in 1815. VI. Franklin, removed to Alabama and left one daughter, Mary, who died while at school in Newport; and other children. VII. Rowland, removed to Indiana, and had many children. VIII. William, unmarried. IX. Eliza, died at twenty-two, unmarried. X. Abigail, or Abby; married Joseph H. Pierce, of Boston; both drowned at sea. XI. Ann, or Nancy, married John Toulmin, of Mobile, and had a daughter, Agatha. XII. Emma, married John Grimshaw, of New York, and had children: Emma, (who married Benjamin Haviland, and had four children); William Robinson, Gertrude, Ellen, and Frances.

3. Mary, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Robinson and granddaughter of Joseph Wanton, (born in 1757,) married John Morton, of Philadelphia. They had three children: I. Robert Morton, a physician, who died young. II. Esther, born in 1797, who married, in 1824, Daniel B. Smith, of Haverford, Penn. III. Robert Morton, born in 1801, died in 1848. Daniel B. and



Esther Smith had four children: Benjamin R. Smith, born in 1825, married Esther F. Wharton in 1859; John Smith, born in 1828, died in 1836; Mary, born 1830, died 1854. The children of Benjamin R. Smith were: Robert Morton, born in 1860, died in 1864; William Wharton, born in 1861; Anna W., born in 1864; Esther, born in 1865; Deborah F., born in 1869, died in 1877; Edward W., born in 1875. Mr. Smith inherits and now occupies as a summer residence, the old homestead of his maternal ancestors in Newport, R. I.

5. Thomas Richardson Robinson, son of Thomas and Sarah Robinson, born in 1761; married Jemima Fish in 1783. He died in 1851, aged ninety; she in 1846, aged eighty-five. Their children were: I. Abigail, born in 1786, and married N. C. Hoag in 1811, and had many children. II. Rowland T., born in 1796; married Rachel Gilpin in 1820, and had two children: Thomas R., born in 1822, died in 1854, (leaving two children, William G., born in 1859, and Sarah R. Robinson, born in 1852,) and Anne R. Robinson, who married Lloyd Minturn in 1843, and died in 1874.

FANNY, daughter of Edward and granddaughter of Governor Gideon Wanton, married William C., grandson of Governor William Robinson. Their children were: 1. Edward Wanton, born in 1797; died in 1818. 2. Stephen Ayrault, born in 1799; married Sarah H. Potter, of South Kingstown, in 1822; died April 7th, 1877. 3. Frances W., born in 1800; died in 1802. 4. George C., born 1802; died 1820. 5. William C., born 1803; married Abby B. Shaw in 1827; died in 1871.

The children of William C., son of William C. Robinson, were:



1. Frances Wanton, born in 1829; died in 1851. 2. William A., born in 1834; died in 1837. 3. Ann Maria, born in 1836; married Albert J. S. Molinard in 1863, who died in 1875, leaving two children. 4. Edward Ayrault, born in 1838; married Alice Canby in 1871, and had several children. 5. George Francis, born in 1843; married Ellen F. Lord in 1869, and have children.



## SALTONSTALL.

ANNE, daughter of Governor Joseph Wanton, born in 1734; married her cousin, Winthrop Saltonstall, of New London, and had five children: 1. Gurdon, who married Hannah Sage, of Middletown, Conn. 2. Winthrop, who was a physician; went to the West Indies and died young, of the yellow fever. He was unmarried. 3. Rebecca, married Peter Christophers, of New London, and, though long an invalid, lived beyond the age of ninety. 4. Mary Wanton, who, on the 29th of November, 1789, married Thomas Coit, M. D., of New London; and 5. Annie, who died unmarried.





## C O I T.

DR. THOMAS COIT had eight children: 1. Anne, who died unmarried. 2. Mary Gardiner. 3. Augusta Dudley. 4. Hannah. 5. Martha. 6. Thomas Winthrop. 7. Elizabeth Richards; and 8. Gurdon Saltonstall. The Rev. THOMAS WINTHROP COIT, D. D., of Middletown, Connecticut, the only survivor of his father's children, was born at New London, June 28, 1803. He graduated at Yale College in 1821. Has been Professor in Trinity College, Hartford, and President of Transylvania University. He is the author of several well known books. Dr. Coit married, in 1828, Eleanor Forrester, daughter of Simon Forrester, of Salem, Mass., and had three children, all now (1878) living: Winthrop Saltonstall Coit, born in 1829; Charles Forrester Coit, born in 1830; and Thomas Gurdon Coit, born in 1835. General Gurdon Saltonstall (as I learn from Dr. Coit) was burnt out during the Revolutionary War by the the traitor Benedict Arnold. He wrote to his father-in-law, Governor Wanton, at Newport, for aid. The Governor sent him, among other articles of furniture, Dean Berkeley's study-chair, which the Dean gave him when he left Newport. This chair came at last to Dr. Coit,













